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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Ukrainian Nuclear Arms 'Fully Under Control' of CIS Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Kozyrev Said To Have Met Armenian, Azerbaijani Counterparts *[INTERFAX]* 1
Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Officially Proposes Minsk Summit *[INTERFAX]* 1
Likely Topics of Discussion *[INTERFAX]* 1
More on Agenda *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Apr 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Grachev Restates Government Position on Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 4
Churkin Cautions Against Force *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 4
Russian Delegation To Meet With Factions *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Moscow Secures Deferment of UN Vote *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 4
Kozyrev Responds to Khasbulatov Remarks on START II *[INTERFAX]* 5
Remarks Said To Threaten U.S. *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 5
G-7 Ministers Conference Opens in Tokyo *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Miyazawa Wants G-7 Leading Role *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Commentator on Hopes for Meeting *[Moscow International]* 6
Further Kozyrev Comments on Yeltsin Visit to Japan *[INTERFAX]* 7
Japanese Response Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 7
Shokhin Says G-7 Must Not Link Aid to Kurils Dispute *[INTERFAX]* 8
Aid Must Not Increase Debt *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Japan To Supply Diesel Fuel to Three Kuril Islands *[Moscow Radio]* 8
New French Government May Limit Aid *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 8
Paris Club's Stance 'Substantial' Help for Reform *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Apr]* 9
Likely Aid Under New Western Package Outlined *[IZVESTIYA 13 Apr]* 9
New IMF Aid Proposals Based on Oil Sales at World Prices *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 10
Denmark To Construct Housing for Troops Leaving Baltics *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 11
German Defense Minister, Kozyrev Discusses Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 11
Defense Ministers Sign Cooperation Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawals *[Moscow TV]* 12
Files on Missing American Servicemen Investigated *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
U.S. Side Could Do More on Joint MIA Commission *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Apr]* 12
Search for U.S. MIA's Continues, Spreads to Lithuania *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 13
Pakistan Offers To Help Free POW's in Afghanistan *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Volunteers Recruited To Fight in Caucasus Area *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 14
Grachev Cited on Progress of Talks With Georgia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Apr]* 14
Abkhazia Compromise Seen as Key to Success of Georgia Talks
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 9 Apr] 14
Armenian, Russian Roles in Karabakh Breakout Denied *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 15
Iran's 'Principled Stance' on Karabakh Conflict Praised *[Moscow International]* 15
Moscow Azerbaijanis Claim Deal Struck With Armenia *[INTERFAX]* 16
Spokesman Terms Ukraine Nuclear Stance 'Primitive' *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Foreign Ministry Condemns Ukraine for 'Nuclear Drift' *[INTERFAX]* 17
Reasons for Government's Statement Examined *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 9 Apr]* 17
Trade Official on Southeast Asian Prospects, Arms Sales *[INTERFAX]* 18
Chinese Admiral Inspects Warship in Vladivostok *[Russian TV]* 19
Commentator on Need To Resolve DPRK Nuclear Issue *[Moscow International]* 20
Kozyrev To Resume Central Asian Tour *[INTERFAX]* 20
Rutskoy Discusses Ties With Syrian Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 20

Moscow Rejects Estonia's 'Territorial Claims' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Apr]* 21
Foreign Ministry on Russian Troops in CIS States *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Apr]* 21
Russian Naval Assets Transferred to Baltic States *[BALTFAX]* 22
Central Bank Limits Foreign Investment in National Banks *[INTERFAX]* 22
Kozyrev, Dutch Counterpart Pledge Greater Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Foreign Economic Minister Begins Latin American Tour *[ITAR-TASS]* 23

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Holds News Conference in Kremlin 14 Apr *[Moscow Radio]* 24
Rutskoy Should 'Make Up His Mind' *[Russian TV]* 24
Comments on Constitution, Elections *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Vows 'No Replay' of '1992 Shock' *[INTERFAX]* 25
Presents Plan for 'Presidential Republic' *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
'Will Resign' if Voted Against *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Cited on Trade With CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Answers Questions on Japan, Rutskoy *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Addresses Heads of Republics Council Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Referendum Called 'Turning Point' *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
All Republics To Hold Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Constitutional Court Judges Interviewed *[KURANTY 13 Apr]* 28
Russian Communist Party Holds News Conference 31
Regional Elections 'Left-Wing' Victory *[Moscow TV]* 31
Against Deputies' Reelection *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Urges Presidential Elections Only *[INTERFAX]* 31
Travkin: Chance for Coalition Government 'Passed' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Apr]* 32
More Travkin Remarks *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Apr]* 32

SCSE Trial

Further on State of Emergency Committee Trial 33
State Prosecutors Appointed *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Trial Ready To Begin *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Supreme Court Official Cited *[Moscow TV]* 33
Western Media Denied Access *[SEGODNYA 13 Apr]* 34
Court Chairman Details Charges *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Supporters Picket Supreme Court *[Radio Rossii]* 35
Defendants Reject Judges, Court *[Moscow Radio]* 35
Defense Attorneys Cited *[INTERFAX]* 36
Court Rejects Trial by Jury Request *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Court Adjourns Until 15 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Stepankov's Book Criticized *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
More on Stepankov Book *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 Apr]* 37

Referendum Issues

Travkin's Party Reveals Stance on Referendum Questions *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY]* 37
Conference of Local Soviet Deputies Issues Appeals 38
On 'Attempts To Dissolve' Soviets *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Apr]* 38
On Armed Forces Referendum Participation *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Apr]* 39
Yeltsin To Meet Public Committee for Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Preparation for Referendum Continues as Planned *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Yeltsin's 'American-Style' Campaign Gaining Support *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 13 Apr]* 40
Presidential Aide Confident Yeltsin Will Win Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Yeltsin Directive on New Referendum Commission *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Apr]* 41

Economic Issues

Gerashchenko: Parliament Not To Blame for Deficit *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Shumeyko Says Economy Now in 'Stabilization Phase' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 9 Apr]* ... 41

Government Allocates 1 Trillion Rubles to Agriculture *[Russian TV]* 41
Planned Measures To Overcome Agricultural Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Economic Slump Predicted for First Half of 1993 *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 42

Supreme Soviet

Vice President Rutskoy Meets With Rural Deputies 42
Says Referendum Not Solution *[INTERFAX]* 42
Criticizes Government Action *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Nation 'Kept Alive by Humanitarian Aid' *[INTERFAX]* 43
Khasbulatov Says 'Radicals' Bypassing Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 43
Laws Hinder Executive Power *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Khasbulatov Meets With Industrialists, Financiers *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Sees Hyperinflation *[INTERFAX]* 44
More on Khasbulatov Meeting With Veterans Groups 45
Fears Rigging of Referendum *[Moscow TV]* 45
More on Remarks *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Khasbulatov Criticizes Yeltsin, Views West's Support *[Warsaw Radio]* 45
Finance Minister Interviewed on 12 April Hearings *[Russian TV]* 47
Further on Central Bank Head's Comments at Hearings *[Russian TV]* 48
Defense, Security Committee Considers Abkhazia Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 48

Regional Affairs

Further on Yeltsin Visit to Kuznetsk Basin *[Russian TV]* 49
Meets With Miners' Representatives *[Moscow TV]* 49
Comments on CIS, 1994 Prices *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Against Deregulating Coal Prices *[INTERFAX]* 50
Cited on Banking, Crime *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Will Not Cooperate With Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Enlists Support From Miners *[INTERFAX]* 51
Kuzbass 'Ecological Disaster Zone' *[Moscow TV]* 52
Anti-Yeltsin Demonstration *[Russian TV]* 52
Paper Views Purpose of Visit *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 53
Firing of Officials Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 14 Apr]* 53
Further on Chernomyrdin's Visit to Krasnodar 54
Views Land Ownership, Spring Sowing *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Calls For Votes in Favor of Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Cited on Control of 'Destructive Forces' *[INTERFAX]* 54
Opposes Government-President Discord *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Arrives in Mineralnyye Vody *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Differences in Data on Tomsk-7 Damage Noted *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 55
Nuclear Ministry: IAEA Inspectors Not Expected in Tomsk *[INTERFAX]* 56
Tomsk Lacks Resources if Evacuation Ever Necessary *[Russian TV]* 56
'Increasing Tensions' in Chechnya Over Security Minister *[INTERFAX]* 56
Article Criticizes Mordovia's Decision on Presidency *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 56
Yeltsin Edict Asserts Mordovian President's Powers *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Apr]* 57
'Governors of Russia' Protest Mordovian Decision *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Apr]* 58

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Shevardnadze Ends Visit, Signs Cooperation Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Kiev TV Reports on Visit 59
Kravchuk, Shevardnadze View Regional Issues *[INTERFAX]* 60
Shevardnadze Hopes for Cooperation *[UKRINFORM]* 60
Shevardnadze's Press Secretary Comments *[Tbilisi Radio]* 61
Kravchuk Criticizes Russian Command of Black Sea Fleet *[Kiev International]* 61
Russia Allegedly Violating Black Sea Fleet Agreement *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 13 Apr]* 62

Negotiator Says Tension With Russia 'Artificially Maintained' *[INTERFAX]* 63
Documents Drafted at Talks With Russia on Black Sea Fleet *[Kiev TV]* 63
Further on Parliamentary Speaker's Visit to China 63
Chinese Official Sees Potential for Cooperation *[Kiev International]* 63
Delegation Meets PRC's Rong Yiren *[Moscow Radio]* 63

National Affairs

Kuchma's Parliament Speech Addresses Economic Situation
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 13 Apr] 64
Foreign Ministry Briefing on Nuclear Disarmament *[Kiev International]* 65
Kravchuk Appoints Bannikov Economics Minister *[Kiev TV]* 65
'Tension' Growing Among Servicemen at Air Regiment *[ITAR-TASS]* 65

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich To Sign CIS Treaty; May Resign *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 13 Apr]* 66
Suggests Referendum on Neutrality *[Minsk Radio]* 66
Supreme Soviet Appeals to CIS To Fulfill Agreements *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Social Democratic Assembly Condemns Joint Security Decision *[RID]* 67
Shuskevich Signs Supreme Council Decree on Customs Tariff *[ZVYAZDA 19 Mar]* 67
Trade Union Supports Economic Integration Within CIS *[Minsk Radio]* 67
Armed Forces To Be Reduced by 24 Percent This Year *[RID]* 68
Defense Minister Comments on Military Doctrine *[VO SLAVU RODINY 23 Mar]* 68

Moldova

President Supports Parliament Plan on Dniester Situation *[INTERFAX]* 72
Discusses Dniester Issue, 14th Army Withdrawal *[Bucharest Radio]* 72
Talks on 14th Army Withdrawal Extended *[Radio Rossii]* 72

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Comments on Economic Development Strategy *[KAZTAG]* 73
Trade Unions Voice Concern at Declining Living Standards *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 73
Government To Send Battalion to Tajik-Afghan Border *[INTERFAX]* 73
Parliament Decides Against Dual Citizenship *[ITAR-TASS]* 73

Kyrgyzstan

Deputies Circumscribe Role of Presidency *[Moscow Radio]* 74
President Discusses New Constitution, Urges Adoption *[INTERFAX]* 74

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Parliament Approves Joining CIS, Black Sea Assemblies *[ITAR-TASS]* 75
Officials Support Referendum To Approve Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 75
Official Comments on Papazyan's Visits to Syria, Moscow *[Yerevan Radio]* 75
Foreign Ministry Protests to Baku, Calls For Cease-Fire *[Yerevan International]* 76
CSCE Observers Arrive in Yerevan *[INTERFAX]* 76

Azerbaijan

Guseynov Flies to Moscow for 'Political Consultations' *[INTERFAX]* 76
Holds 'Confidential Meeting' With Kozyrev *[INTERFAX]* 76

Foreign Minister Lodges Protest With Yerevan *[INTERFAX]* 77
Baku Expects New Armenian Offensive on Sarsangak Dam Area *[INTERFAX]* 77
Armenians Fail To Seize Murovdag Ridge *[ITAR-TASS]* 77
Armenians Threaten to Capture Fizuli *[ITAR-TASS]* 78
Karabakh Leadership Refutes Capture of Fizuli Settlements *[ITAR-TASS]* 78
* Gadzhizade Claims Russian Intervention in Fighting *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Apr]* 78
Turkey's Ozal Meets Elchibey, Discusses Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 79
Warns Armenia Not To Test Turkey's Patience *[Ankara Radio]* 80
Warns of 'Endless War' *[INTERFAX]* 80
Stresses Support in Address to Supreme Soviet *[Ankara TV]* 80
Guseynov Meets Iranian President, Completes Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 81
Turkey, Iran in 'No Hurry' To Respond to Call for Aid *[IZVESTIYA 13 Apr]* 82
CSCE Observers Arrive, Visit Various Areas *[Baku Radio]* 82
President on Opposition's Demands for Coalition Government *[INTERFAX]* 82

Georgia

Shevardnadze Receives Clinton Letter on Relations *[Tbilisi Radio]* 83
U.S. Ambassador Meets Gamsakhurdia Supporters *[Russian TV]* 83
Russian 'Reactionary Circles' Alleged Backing Gamsakhurdia
[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY] 83
Kitovani, Gamsakhurdia Supporters To Lift Road Blockades *[INTERFAX]* 83
Defense Ministry Reports Attacks on Sukhumi, Ochamchira *[INTERFAX]* 84
Shevardnadze Returns From Kiev Visit *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 84

BALTIC STATES

Lithuania

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Policy *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 31 Mar]* 85
Defense Minister Opposes Neutrality *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 27 Mar]* 87
Defense Ministry Launches Conscription Campaign *[BALTFAX]* 88
Police Seeking Uranium Stolen From Ignalina *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 13 Apr]* 88
Agreement Reached With Russia on Oil Purchases *[Vilnius Radio]* 89
Foreign Credits To Cover Social Welfare Payments *[BALTFAX]* 89

Ukrainian Nuclear Arms 'Fully Under Control' of CIS Forces

LD1404113393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory are fully under control of the CIS Unified Armed Forces main command, which seeks to enforce the Lisbon Protocol saying these weapons should belong to the Russian Federation. This was reported to a Bundeswehr delegation when it met on Wednesday with the first deputy chief of staff of the CIS Armed Forces, Vladimir Krivonogikh.

"We share our German colleagues' concern that Ukraine has not so far taken a clear stance in relation to strategic nuclear weapons", Lieutenant-General Krivonogikh told TASS. Judging by the Lisbon Protocol, Ukraine, as well as Belarus and Kazakhstan, declared its nuclear-free status. "We would like to hope Ukraine will embark upon the path of nuclear disarmament", the deputy chief of staff stressed.

Speaking of practical results of the meeting, Krivonogikh said an agreement had been reached on exchange of military delegations and cadets of Germany and CIS member states, as well as on expanding contacts with the CIS Armed Forces staff.

Kozyrev Said To Have Met Armenian, Azerbaijani Counterparts

OW1304113093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to sources in the missions of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow, on Monday [12 April] afternoon the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had confidential meetings with his Azeri and Armenian counterparts Panakh Guseynov and Vahan Papazyan. No details are reported. It is not even clear whether Kozyrev met them separately or at the same time.

The Russian Foreign Ministry neither confirmed nor denied the report.

Immediately after the talks Guseynov and Papazyan flew to their respective capitals.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Officially Proposes Minsk Summit

OW1304164693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has proposed an extraordinary meeting of the CIS state leaders in Minsk Friday April 16. Interfax has been informed that there no official agenda has yet been worked out. It became known from circles close to the president, however, that Alma-Ata proposes to discuss the perspectives of economic cooperation between the CIS member states, especially a customs union, the principles of free trade in the CIS and other issues.

Presumably matters related to the Collective Security Treaty will be discused. On April 16 the leaders of the CIS states will probably discuss the preparation for the regular meeting of the councils of heads of state and governments due to take place in Yerevan on April 30.

Likely Topics of Discussion

OW1304162393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reliable sources close to the Belarusian leadership have told Interfax that the CIS heads of state at their meeting on Friday [16 April] would not be signing documents on any specific areas of cooperation. They would simply sign a communique making an assessment of the current political situation in the republics of the former Soviet Union. They would also discuss some aspects of the April 30 meeting of the councils of heads of state and government.

According to unofficial sources the CIS leaders may also consider Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich's proposal for forming an economic union. The proposal has been approved by the Belarusian parliament, which has also instructed its chairman, Vyacheslav Shushkevich, to negotiate the republic's joining the CIS Collective Security Treaty.

The heads of state might also discuss the ratification of agreements signed at previous CIS summits.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Ruslan Khasbulatov, Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, said at a meeting of the parliament presidium that Russia had ratified fewer CIS documents than any other Commonwealth country had. Recalling his recent tour of CIS states (between 18 and 21 March he visited Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan) Khasbulatov said it was the duty of Russia, "owing to the existing traditions and opportunities," to play an important role in bringing together culturally and economically "those countries pursuing the path of independent development." He said relations with other republics of the former Soviet Union should be the priority area in Russia's foreign policy. Here he criticized inter-governmental bilateral agreements, some of which, he said, were "empty" because they had been prepared "in haste," whereas others, which were more serious, were ignored by the government.

Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the working group of the Council of Heads of State and Council of Heads of Government, was in Moscow on Tuesday, presumably to discuss the date and agenda for the summit.

Sources in the office of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told Interfax the president would most likely attend the summit.

According to sources close to President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, the Kazakh leadership has proposed for discussion at the summit some aspects of economic cooperation, such as the formation of a customs union and principles for free trade between Commonwealth states.

More on Agenda

PM1404092593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Shagun: "Extraordinary Meeting of CIS Heads of State Will Take Place 16 April in Minsk"]

[Text] The press service of the CIS working group in Minsk confirms that the majority of CIS heads of state have agreed to come to Minsk to take part personally in this meeting.

The specific details of the forthcoming agenda for the summit in Minsk are not yet announced but as a whole there will be a detailed discussion of B. Yeltsin's initiative and the subsequent statement by Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev on the creation of an economic union on the basis of the republics of the former USSR and with the possible association of former CEMA countries.

According to the Russian president's statement which is shared by N. Nazarbayev and I. Korotchen, chief coordinator of the CIS working group, today, in the interests of economic and social revival and with a view to stability and security it is necessary to set up multilateral economic cooperation and finally to resolve questions of a supranational currency, free trade, and a customs union.

The newly created structures—interstate councils, committees, and other organs which reflect new forms of mutual relations between CIS members—must be given the opportunity to operate. Unfortunately, so far only sectorial coordinating structures are trying to operate and the activity of the Interstate Bank and Economic Court can be talked of only in the future tense.

It is most likely, the CIS working group press service announces, that it is these questions which will be the focus of attention of the Minsk meeting. It is not for nothing that B. Yeltsin stated in his address to the heads of state that the time has come to create in the CIS coordinating organs, possibly invested with some power functions, which would exercise control over the execution of previously made decisions.

The speediest ratification of the CIS charter would promote the creation of such an economic union and the emergence of real instruments for influencing the implementation of the accords which have been reached.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Apr

LD1404060193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0541 GMT 14 Apr 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 14 (TASS)—The visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the city of Novokuznetsk on April 13 is the leading topic in today's Moscow press.

TRUD, under the rubric "On the Eve of Referendum", runs a dispatch by the newspaper's correspondents under the headline "To Coalminers for Support".

"If the people will entrust it to us, we shall pursue the policy of reforms still more firmly," TRUD quotes Yeltsin as telling journalists at the local airport, when speaking about the forthcoming April 25 all-Russia referendum.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA notes that this time, unlike Yeltsin's previous trip to Novokuznetsk, the industrial centre of the Kuzbass Coal Basin, in April 1991, "coalminers greeted him not so tumultuously as last time."

Pointing out that the principal aim of the Russian president's visit was to "run in" a state programme for the social protection of coalminers, the newspaper writes that Yeltsin nevertheless turned down their demand for an increase in the price of coal. "We may not go to that because the whole of Russia would explode," the president said, at the same time pointing out the possibility of increasing state subsidies to them.

"Yeltsin, when in Novokuznetsk, practically every minute tried to evade the role of Santa Claus from whom everyone expects only gifts," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) observes. "However much did the president try to speak on big issues, he still had to get preoccupied with such matters as reduced-price shops for war veterans, the construction of hospitals, a dam, housing, etc..."

TRUD, reporting statements made in a number of cities of the country in support of the president of the Russian Federation, arrives at a conclusion that during the referendum many people will vote against the deputies' corps, against the Congress of People's Deputies, who through their unrestrained passion for steering the ship of the state, "have substantially raised Boris Yeltsin's chances for success".

PRAVDA, with reference to letters and telegrammes that have come in to it from various regions of the country, maintains that during the referendum many will bring a vote of no confidence in the president of Russia and vote for an early election of people's deputies.

Newspapers report that the Military Judicial Board of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation goes into session in Moscow on Wednesday to examine the state emergency committee case, pointing out that 12 men in the dock will be defended by 19 lawyers.

Russian parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and a number of other state and political figures of Russia and the former Soviet Union will be called to give testimony as witnesses.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) and other newspapers report that Belarus may join the six states that participate in the CIS collective security system. As was reported, Belarus, pleading its neutral status, did not sign a collective security treaty in Tashkent on May 15, last year.

Belarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has come forward with the idea of reconsidering the treaty. A newspaper article on the subject points out that the participation of Belarus in the CIS collective security system "would meet the actual strategic interests of both Russia and Belarus itself".

Grachev Restates Government Position on Yugoslavia

OW1304184293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has declared that Moscow, as before, advocated political means for solving the Yugoslavia conflict. In Grachev's words, the Russian military leadership was considering the issue on participation of the Russian transport aircraft in deliveries of humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia. However, it did not say it would augment the Russian military contingent in this country. Grachev said that the participation of one Russian battalion within the peacekeeping forces was quite adequate. The Russian minister voiced this statement during his joint press conference with the German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe on Tuesday [13 April] in Moscow.

According to Grachev he was rather cautious about the decision to close air space over Bosnia and Herzegovina because, as he said, foreign forces could be involved in the domestic conflict in the former Yugoslavia following this action.

Grachev indicated that the schedule of the Russian forces' withdrawal from Germany was being faithfully observed and that Moscow was due to fulfill its obligations by August 1994.

The Minister said that the Russian servicemen would participate in the April 25 referendum as citizens of this nation. "I can say for sure that the majority of the servicemen will take part in the voting," he noted.

Churkin Cautions Against Force

PM1304134493 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Yevgeniy Vostrukhov report: "Vitaliy Churkin: There Must Be No Rush To Use Force in Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Belgrade—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister V. Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, has completed his latest round of talks with Serbian President S. Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader R. Karadzic in Belgrade.

In the Russian diplomat's opinion, the talks were constructive, since they continued the quest for ways to overcome the Bosnian crisis by peaceful means within the framework of the Vance-Owen plan. "We are now witnessing a violent development of the Yugoslav problem," Vitaliy Churkin told your IZVESTIYA correspondent. "However, there must be no rush to use force while there still remain opportunities for a different outcome."

V. Churkin stressed that he was satisfied with his conversations in Belgrade. He intends to discuss the results in Washington on 9 April with R. Bartholomew, the U.S. special representative at the talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other representatives of the U.S. Administration. The Russian president's special envoy also intends to meet with C. Vance and D. Owen in New York.

Russian Delegation To Meet With Factions

LD1304131693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1141 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—The main task of the Russian parliamentary delegation that leaves tomorrow for the former Yugoslavia is to hold consultations with all sides involved in the Yugoslav crisis. Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of the Constitutional Committee, announced this at a news conference held today at Russia's House of Soviets.

He recalled that the UN Security Council had postponed tackling the Yugoslav issue until 26 April because of opposition from Bosnia and Herzegovina. "In these circumstances, the mission of the Russian parliamentary delegation takes on special importance," said Oleg Rumyantsev. "We would not like there to be yet another unjust decision by the Security Council and another one-sided verdict adopted. The Russian delegation will try to meet the leaders of Yugoslavia and Croatia and the leaders of the opposing sides."

Oleg Rumyantsev pointed out that he would try to make all sides understand that "the territorial amendments to the Vance-Owen plan proposed by the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Karadzic, must be agreed to." He stressed that "Russia's foreign policy carries much weight here and we have a chance to influence the opposing sides."

Moscow Secures Deferment of UN Vote

PM1404095393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "At Russia's Insistence UN Vote on Sanctions Against Yugoslavia Has Been Deferred"]

[Text] Washington—At Russia's insistence, the UN Security Council has decided to defer for two weeks voting on a resolution which would considerably toughen sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Moscow explained its position by stressing two factors: the desire to give the sides involved in the conflict one more opportunity to agree between themselves and finally adopt the Vance-Owen plan.

The second factor is more important: In a message sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin made it clear that from his viewpoint the toughening of sanctions will create additional problems for him in Russia itself.

It is no accident that the Security Counil has decided, when holding a routine series of in-camera consultations Monday, that the voting will now take place no earlier than 26 April—a day after the Russian referendum.

The United States, France, and Britain favor sanctions and in principle they could insist on a vote; in that case Russia would obviously have to resort to its right of veto.

But the veto has not been applied since 1990. Such is the atmosphere at present in the Security Council, where voting on a particular resolution does not take place until a consensus has been elaborated between the "big five"—the permanent Security Council members.

Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian deputy foreign minister and the president's special representative, expressed satisfaction at the council's position and stressed: "Now is not the time to introduce new sanctions. If that decision were made today it would merely create additional problems and would not promote the solution of those which already exist."

Kozyrev Responds to Khasbulatov Remarks on START II

OW1304161793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's Foreign Minister, told Interfax in an exclusive interview that he was surprised and grieved by the remarks made by Khasbulatov, chairman of the country's parliament, on the conditions for ratification of the START-2 Russo-American treaty. The speaker said Tuesday [13 April] that the treaty could not be ratified unless it was presented by a "foreign minister who would enjoy respect and be recognized by the public. ... As long there is no such minister," Khasbulatov thinks there is no question of the Russian parliament ratifying START-2.

Kozyrev said verbatim: "The latest attempt to turn a major treaty which consolidates peace guarantees for the Fatherland, which has suffered so much, into a hostage of political games triggers nothing but surprise and, certainly, grief for Russia. Alas, it is well-known that ethics is not the strong point of the Supreme Soviet. Nevertheless I do not think it desirable to turn an important national issue into a personal controversy."

Remarks Said To Threaten U.S.

PM1304175193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Our Speaker Finally Puts U.S. Congress in Its Place"]

[Text] Addressing a meeting Tuesday morning of World War II, militia, and trade union veterans who had been selected by his apparatus, R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, attempted to win over the Washington White House, Capitol Hill—where the U.S. Congress is in session—and all the world's peace-loving public interested in the ratification of the START II Treaty.

Answering a question about the prospects for ratification of this treaty, which was signed by Presidents B. Yeltsin and G. Bush this January, the leader of the country's main soviet said: "First and foremost this treaty should be submitted (to the Russian Supreme Soviet) by a foreign minister who is worthy of society's respect and confidence. Until we get such a minister I think it will be simply absurd to talk about the START II Treaty."

Accusations require no proof within the terms of reference of the propaganda campaign which Khasbulatov is currently waging against the president. The laws of chivalry pertaining to duels do not apply to a war of destruction. That is why few will be surprised by Khasbulatov's attack at the same meeting: "The people standing in the way of the reforms are the president himself and his government, which are incapable of carrying out the reforms."

This text is cited in reverse translation from the English supplied by the REUTER wire service. Translated back from Soviet language into ordinary speech, it means he himself is an idiot.

It is unprecedented to take such an attitude toward a treaty on which the fate of mankind depends. The threefold reduction in the nuclear potential of Russia and the United States is designed for the decade ahead and intended to yield considerable benefits only in the next millennium. Very many people in Russia justifiably hope that neither the Congress of People's Deputies nor the current Supreme Soviet will make it past the year 2000.

By stating that Foreign Minister Kozyrev's resignation is a precondition for ratification of the treaty by the Supreme Soviet Khasbulatov has not merely arbitrarily and infinitely expanded the bounds of his powers. He has essentially delivered an ultimatum to our negotiating partner. He has clearly threatened the United States with the collapse of a most important agreement. And simultaneously pointed the way toward a nonnuclear world—namely, by removing Kozyrev, or, if the worse comes to the worst, by demoting him.

Lord, to think that the fate of mankind can sometimes hang on things like this!

Although this kind of linkage of the world's future to immediate cadre interests sounds like a bad joke, it cannot be wholly disregarded. Our parliament is able to make fairy tales come true. It could up and pass a decree to halt nuclear disarmament until a total and final victory over Kozyrev is won. And, if necessary, it could change the Constitution too.

Khasbulatov's latest initiative is hardly likely to make anyone on Capitol Hill blanch. Both the Democratic

majority and the Republican minority will just shrug their shoulders. It is all right for them. They do not have to answer the referendum questions.

G-7 Ministers Conference Opens in Tokyo

LD1404080493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0601 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 14 TASS—A two-day G7 foreign and finance ministers' conference on aid to Russia opened here on Wednesday [14 April]. On the threshold of the forthcoming referendum, to be held in Russia on April 25, the G7 ministerial meeting is called upon to show that the United States, West European powers, Japan, and Canada are united in their support for President Boris Yeltsin's policy course towards democratisation and market-oriented reforms.

An active verbal support is expected to be backed up by a specific package of coordinated aid measures on both bilateral and multilateral basis. The total amount of aid funds, according to existing data, will be from 30 to 40 billion dollars. Part of the funds, although not the bulk, will be provided free of charge.

Assistance is oriented, in particular, towards a postponement of Russia's repayment of the foreign debts of the former Soviet Union, the stabilisation of the rouble, restoration of production in the energy sector, the development of small and medium-sized businesses, the stimulation of Russian import, and the elimination of nuclear arms in practice.

Today's plenary session is involving only G7 ministers. Russian Vice-Premier Boris Fedorov and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will join them on Thursday.

Prior to the beginning of the conference, the G7 foreign and finance ministers held two separate meetings.

Miyazawa Wants G-7 Leading Role

LD1404113593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 14 TASS—The G7 countries, who share major responsibilities for securing peace and prosperity of the world, must take the lead in rallying the international community in support of the reforms in Russia, as well as in other reforming countries, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said in his opening remarks here on Wednesday at the Group-of-Seven foreign and finance ministers' conference on assistance to Russia.

Russia is now at a critical juncture, with the reform efforts under the leadership of President Yeltsin facing tremendous challenges both politically and economically, Mr Miyazawa said. It is incumbent upon the international community "to send a clear message that it expects Russia's reforms to be pursued irreversibly," he said.

The Japanese prime minister emphasised that "in the final analysis, it is the Russians themselves who can make their own reforms work. The task of the international community is to help ease this sometimes painful transition for the Russian people, by providing the necessary 'help for self-help'".

Mr Miyazawa announced Japan's new assistance package to Russia which totals 1.82 billion U.S. dollars. Out of the amount, 300 million dollars will be assigned free of charge for the provision of foodstuffs and medicines in the form of humanitarian aid, technical assistance to pave the way towards a market economy and grants for fostering small and medium-sized businesses and assistance in eliminating nuclear weapons.

In addition, Japan assigns 1.1 billion dollars to insure foreign trade operations, primarily purchases of equipment for the oil and gas sector as Russia's principal hard currency earner, and grant a credit of 400 million dollars through the export-import bank.

Commentator on Hopes for Meeting

LD1304132393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Commentary by Anatoliy Potapov; read by announcer]

[Text] This Wednesday and Thursday the foreign and finance ministers of the big seven are meeting in Tokyo. More from Anatoliy Potapov:

The ministers will focus almost exclusively on aid to Russia. They will exchange views on Wednesday and on Thursday 15th April Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov of Russia will be invited in to hear the conference's view of the problem.

Overall approach to the problem of aid to Russia remains to be defined and individual approaches happen to differ. Germany for one feels it has rendered its share of humanitarian aid to Russia and it's about time other industrialized democracies followed suit. New French Premier Edouard Balladur feels France cannot afford generosity now that it is facing its own financial problems. And President Clinton has already been accused of aiding Russia at the expense of the national economy.

But most political leaders of the West realize that support for democracy and economic reforms in Russia translate into the promotion of European stability and consequently security for the West and high dividends for Western businesses.

Apparently under outside pressure Japan has shown reason and updated its position. It has all but dropped attempts to link aid to Russia to the solution of the territorial problem. Japan has come to pay attention to what Russia has to say on the matter. Japan accepts the

possibility of a G-7 emergency summit on aid to Russia and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who will be chairing the July summit of the Big Seven, intends to act so as to make Boris Yeltsin happy.

All this sounds encouraging and there is no doubt Boris Yeltsin helped promote bilateral relations when he said he would pay an official visit to Tokyo even before the July summit.

The financial outline of the aid package is taking shape. An estimated $27-30 billion covers among other things the postponement of payments on Russia's 15 billion foreign debt, contributions to the ruble stabilization fund, and loans from international financial set ups, leaving some 5billion to direct injections in the Russian economy.

A spokesman for the United States Department of the Treasury says aid to Russia must be rendered generously and without delay. The scale of Western support must indeed match the scale of Russia's market-oriented reforms.

For about two months the West has been busy discussing aid to the Russian reforms. Hopefully the G-7 ministers will meet in Tokyo to decide the issue and specify what exactly they are going to do to help Russia.

Further Kozyrev Comments on Yeltsin Visit to Japan

OW1304155393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's foreign minister doesn't rule out the possibility that President Boris Yeltsin will visit Japan before the G-7 convenes for its summit in Tokyo in July.

In answer to a question from Interfax on Tuesday [13 April] after talks in Moscow with his Netherlandian counterpart, Peter Kooijmans, Andrey Kozyrev said he intends to discuss President Yeltsin's visit in Tokyo on April 14, but "without any linkage" with Moscow's participation in the meetings of the 7 leading industrialized countries. According to Kozyrev, "it's very important" to have no such linkage.

As the head of Russian diplomacy pointed out, he is "cautiously optimistic" about his upcoming talks with the representatives of Japan's leadership. He intends to consider the issue of President Yeltsin's visit in concrete terms, Kozyrev said.

Moscow has noted the attitude of unambiguous support for democratic changes and free-market reforms in Russia, voiced by the new Japanese Foreign Minister, Kabun Muto, in televised debates on Sunday, said the Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, Sergey Yastrzembskiy, at Tuesday's briefing in Moscow. In answer to a question from Interfax he called attention to Kabun Muto's statement to the effect that the Japanese government views the granting of aid to Russia and the territorial dispute, which exists in Russian-Japanese relations, as two different issues.

"We duly appreciate the well-considered, constructive and responsible approach to Russian-Japanese relations, displayed by Kabun Muto," Yastrzembskiy pointed out.

At the previous briefing held on Friday, Yastrzembskiy criticised Kabun Muto for his statement at the press conference given on April 7. "Having outlined Japan's well-known attitude to the issues of bilateral relations, the foreign minister reaffirmed in a tough form the principle that economics and politics are indivisible," said Yastrzembsky. Such statements, he added, can hardly create a favorable background for discussing bilateral problems during the upcoming trip to Tokyo by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"The latest developments did not confirm the trend that had begun to take shape," said Yastrzembskiy with satisfaction on Tuesday.

Japanese Response Viewed

PM1304104193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Tokyo Ready To Accept 'Russian President's Surprise'"]

[Text] Tokyo—The report that Boris Yeltsin has expressed the wish to visit Tokyo in the very near future has come to Japan like a lightning flash. Journalists hastened to call it "Yeltsin's surprise."

As a whole the Japanese cabinet's official representatives have welcomed the prospect of an imminent summit meeting—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters after the government session that he approves of the fact that the question of the Russian president's visit has been put back on the agenda of bilateral relations and hopes to talk about this in detail with Andrey Kozyrev, who is arriving in Tokyo for the meeting of ministers of the "Big Seven."

Foreign Minister Muto's statements deserve special attention since the head of the Japanese foreign policy department not only welcomed Yeltsin's visit but also dwelled in sufficient detail on the subject of linking economics and politics in contacts with Russia in connection with the ill-starred territorial issue. Noting that in bilateral dialogue Japan will not retreat from its traditional demands for the return of the disputed islands, the minister at the same time announced a renunciation of the principle of linking politics and economics and for the first time recognized the priority of the success of Russian reforms and democratic transformations over the territorial rivalry with Moscow.

"Support for Yeltsin's reforms," Muto said, "should prevail over all the rest. Japan must join other developed countries and help Russia create a market economy."

This policy statement was backed up by the leak to the press from Japanese Government sources according to which Japan has decided to raise the level of its economic commitments regarding aid to Russia and to increase the Japanese "package" to $1.82 billion—$1.1 billion in the form of an insurance fund for trade operations with Russia and $500 million as credit from the export and import bank and $320 million as humanitarian aid and assistance in dismantling nuclear weapons.

The head of the Japanese cabinet, Miyazawa, is to announce the new Japanese initiatives with regard to Russia in his speech at the opening of the "G-7" forum. The Russian delegation, which will be headed by Vice Premier Fedorov and Foreign Minister Kozyrev will follow the first day of the debates from the sidelines and will meet with the event's participants only on Wednesday [14 April] evening at a cocktail reception. The "seven plus one" talks will take place on Thursday—at full strength—and it is still not known what points on the agenda will be touched on and in what form. Thus, for instance, in the corridors there is vigorous talk that quite a lot of attention will be paid to a number of specific questions including the monetary emission in Russia and the relations between the government and the Central Bank and the problem of ensuring the safety of the Russian nuclear complex, both civilian and military, in connection with the recent accident in Tomsk-7 and cases of the burial of our radioactive waste in the open sea.

As far as is known Japan, which is extremely perturbed by the "nuclear disorganization" in the immediate geographical vicinity of its own borders, intends to act as the initiator in examining the nuclear issue. The raising of the question within the "G-7" framework will according to available information will include ultimatum demands to stop poisoning the depths of the sea with nuclear waste and a series of constructive proposals for rendering the necessary technological and financial aid to equip nuclear burial grounds in safe places.

Shokhin Says G-7 Must Not Link Aid to Kurils Dispute

OW1404104893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who is touring the Far East, has arrived in Yuzhno-Sakhalinks from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy April 14. He said that the top priority of his visit is to campaign for the April 25 referendum.

Speaking on the Kuril isles he noted that the acuteness of the problem in bilateral relations with Japan had been alleviated and that this issue had been separated from these relations as a whole. Shokhin insisted that normal economic contacts were being established with Japan and the "northern territories" did not top the list of priorities any more. Shokhin went on to say that at the G-7 meeting in Tokyo which would be attended by Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, "economic aid to Russia must not be contingent on the problems of the 'northern territories'."

Aid Must Not Increase Debt

LD1404080893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0643 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy April 14 TASS—"We would not like Western countries to grant us a support which would increase our foreign debt and place us in a difficult economic situation. As far as we can understand, the West is also aware of this", Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin told TASS on Wednesday referring to the G-7 meeting of foreign and finance ministers in Tokyo.

Shokhin, who is on tour of Russia's Far East, flew for Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on Wednesday after winding up his visit to the Kamchatka peninsula.

He told reporters that in Kamchatka he looked for joint approaches to interaction between federal and local governing bodies. "There are a lot of sore and unsolved problems in this sphere, but we have come to the conclusion that we should pool efforts in working on promising projects", he said.

Among the projects the deputy prime minister listed the construction of international sea and airports, as well as electric and thermal power plants.

Japan To Supply Diesel Fuel to Three Kuril Islands

LD1304181193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Japanese Government adopted a decision today to grant the three islands of the Kuril range—Kunashir, Iturup, and Shikotan,—which are called the Northern Territories by the Japanese, 1,500 tonnes of diesel fuel as urgent humanitarian aid. This decision was the result of information of the disastrous situation on these islands caused by the absence of fuel for power stations. Last week Tokyo received the respective application for aid from the Kunashir authorities.

New French Government May Limit Aid

PM1304110093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Yuriy Kovalenko report under the general heading: "West Puts Forward New Credit Programs for Russian

Economy, But Makes Them Conditional on Continuation of Democratic Reforms"]

[Text] Paris—The new French Government which came to power following the right's victory in the recent National Assembly elections will make some amendments to the concept for aid to Russia and will, to all appearances, limit it.

Whereas Paris, along with Bonn, has hitherto been most consistent in advocating extensive aid for Moscow, in particular within the EC framework, its approach may now change.

France's current financial position does not allow it to display "great generosity" outside France, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said at a session of the Council of Ministers at which the situation in Russia was one item on the agenda. Speaking after a report on this subject by Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, the head of government nevertheless pointed out that aid for Moscow must be "adequate."

A special government communique on the financial and economic situation in Russia published after the Council of Ministers session proposes clearly outlining the aims of this aid. This document says that the development of the transformation process in Russia is in the interests of the international community in order for Russia to share "our values as regards democracy and a market economy."

At the same time the aid must, according to the government, be tailored to the situation in Russia and made conditional upon the continuation of democratic reforms—otherwise it will be pointless. Multilateral institutions must outline several clear goals: ruble stabilization, industrial restructuring, and juridical and institutional reforms.

Commenting on the U.S. decision to give Russian $1.6 billion, Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said: If this figure is compared with the amount of aid that the Twelve have given to Moscow, the EC "has no cause for shame." According to him, the meeting in Vancouver culminated in greater political than economic success for Boris Yeltsin.

Paris Club's Stance 'Substantial' Help for Reform

PM1304153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 2

[Igor Petrov "Commentary": "West's Real Contribution"]

[Text] Russian Vice Premier A. Shokhin has described the Paris Club's rescheduling of the former USSR's foreign debt payments as unprecedented in world practice and unique. There is every reason for that definition: Russia has received a 10-year breathing space to pay the debt liabilities due in 1993 which it inherited from the former USSR. Thus, the total payments to the Paris Club will amount to around $2 billion instead of the $5.1 billion on which creditors were initially insisting.

There is no doubt that the Russian Government's positions were considerably strengthened after this agreement had been signed. In agreeing to the debt rescheduling, the West has not just verbally, but actually demonstrated its support for the political course pursued by President B. Yeltsin and the Russian Government, while economic reforms received a powerful financial boost: You cannot describe $15 billion that will only start to be repaid in 1999 as anything but a substantial contribution from the West to support for these reforms. That will create a real, solid financial base for the continuation of the economic transformations in Russia and shoot down in flames the government opposition's argument that the West supposedly fobs us off with empty promises.

As for the London Club and the former USSR's commercial creditors, in A. Shokhin's opinion, both the banks and individual firms will act with consideration for the agreement reached with the Paris Club. A. Shokhin also voiced the hypothesis that the talks with the London Club will come to a close before the latest three-month deferral of debt payments to this club's members comes to an end, and the terms of an agreement may be even more favorable than those agreed in the French capital.

The talks on paying the debts, payments on which fall due in 1994, will evidently begin this year.

Likely Aid Under New Western Package Outlined

PM1304153493 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Western Aid Program for Russian Reforms Totals Around $40 Billion"]

[Text] Tokyo—People in Tokyo and other Western capitals are not hiding the fact that the Russian economic aid package which is to be adopted during the meeting of the G-7 foreign and finance ministers in the Japanese capital may affect intra-Russian affairs since help is being provided "for Yeltsin" and the reforms that he is carrying out.

The general outlines of the "Russian package" are already well known. The largest "contribution" ($15.5 billion has already been agreed, but fresh initiatives are possible too) takes the form not of direct aid, but the rescheduling of Russia's foreign debt repayments. The $7-8 billion bloc of credit formed by international organizations and designed to support market reforms includes $3 billion from the World Bank, $500 million from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], and $3-4 billion from the IMF. Then there is the "third basket," which includes aid from individual G-7 members—it runs to $3.5-4 billion ($1.6 billion from the United States as promised in Vancouver, $1.5 billion from Japan, which has not yet been

promised as such but has already been made ready, $160 million from Canada, $180 million from Britain, and the rest is expected from the other G-7 partners). Around $28 billion is to be received all in all. If you add to this (and many commentaries are already doing so) the billions that have not yet shown up, the billions discussed at last year's G-7 meeting in Munich, the current total Tokyo package swells to almost $40 billion.

If this is not to take your breath away, it is worth investigating how much of this enormous sum Russia will get and which sectors of the economy will benefit. That kind of analysis is less exciting, but it is essential so as not to engender unnecessary expectations. Realistically Russia could rapidly receive emergency humanitarian aid, which, according to estimates, will never top a ceiling of 1-2 percent of the total sum. Russia will also receive—although not rapidly—special-purpose credit for the development of the fuel and energy and raw material complex, primarily money for the exploration and commissioning of oil and gas fields, in which the West has a particular interest (specialists cite a sum of something on the order of $4-5 billion for this kind of credit). Russia can realistically expect to receive money to fund disarmament measures, for conversion requirements, and to ensure the security of the excessively dangerous Russian nuclear complex, but it is not very clear when or in what form. Russia is unlikely to receive money earmarked for the development of small- and medium-sized business or funds allocated for technical and consultative aid programs and aid in cadre training (these amount to several hundred million dollars). Russia will never receive the rescheduled debt payments and money earmarked for the insurance of Western companies' trading operations with Russian partners—which amounts to more than 80 percent of the entire package. The latter appears particularly dismal at first glance, but one must bear in mind that debt rescheduling and insurance for trading operations guarantee the contracts that Russian industry needs for supplies of equipment and other import-export operations, without which the economy will not survive.

Official departments here have calculated that Japan itself is currently fifth out of the G-7 countries in terms of the amount of aid (both aid already given and aid promised)—Germany holds first place ($50.8 billion), followed by the United States ($9.97 billion), Italy ($4.61 billion), France ($2.98 billion), and then Japan ($2.82 billion).

Japan's contribution to the future loans for Russia via international organizations (the IMF, the World Bank, the EBRD) has not yet been announced, but it will apparently exceed its bilateral commitments since Tokyo gives precedence to multilateral measures compared with direct contacts, which are kept in check by the well-known territorial problem. What is more, Japan, the mass media say, intends to allocate roughly $1 billion to Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Ukraine to help them rid themselves of the Soviet nuclear legacy and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

New IMF Aid Proposals Based on Oil Sales at World Prices

PM1304105693 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report under general heading: "West Puts Forward New Credit Programs for Russian Economy, But Makes Them Conditional on Continuation of Democratic Reforms"]

[Text] Washington—If Russia introduces world prices for the oil that other countries of the former Union receive, the shipments will be funded partially by the IMF. This will, in a way, help Russia itself: Its coffers will ultimately receive dollars for oil.

That is the crux of one version of a new aid program for the former USSR currently being examined by the IMF. A routine session of the fund's Board of Directors devoted to this issue was held in Washington on Wednesday.

I was told by informed sources that the initiative for formulating the new program comes directly from the fund itself, which is coming under pressure from the G-7 countries, which would like to help reforms in Russia and other countries but cannot particularly afford to do this with their own money, which they need to resolve problems "at home."

Nor can the fund spend money indiscriminately: Each of the current forms of credit is in one way or another tied up with a host of conditions, which it is not merely desirable but essential to meet. It is precisely because Russia does not meet many of these conditions that we have so far not received three-fourths, that is $3 billion, of the credit agreed last summer.

Hence the innovation: The fund is preparing a qualitatively new credit program that will also be based on conditions, but far less tough conditions and fewer of them.

According to my sources' information, these credits may be received by those countries whose economy is in a "state of transition" and where either a drastic decline in exports or a drastic change in the amount of import costs, or both at once, have been recorded.

Russia fits all these criteria and, if the question of new credit programs is resolved when the fund is scheduled to resolve it, that is 23-24 April, I was told by my sources that we might start receiving the new credit in May.

How much? Some 40 or at most 50 percent of our total quota in the fund, that is something on the order of $3 billion. To this sum will, however, be added what we receive from other countries of the former Union in payment for oil sold at world prices. The amount of the credit that the oil buyers will receive and which they will naturally pay for themselves also amounts to 40-50 percent of their quota.

As for the credits that we will be allocated direct, they will, according to press reports, be earmarked in particular to buy industrial equipment in the West.

Denmark To Construct Housing for Troops Leaving Baltics

PM1304135993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 7

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA-ITAR-TASS report: "Concrete Danish Initiative"]

[Text] The question of the Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic has been vigorously discussed in the Scandinavian countries, but only one of the host of initiatives put forward of late can really help to resolve this problem.

Danish Housing Minister Flemming Kofod-Svendsen had said that the Danes are willing to begin building housing for servicemen and their families leaving the Baltic states. The first urban-type settlement will be built near St. Petersburg. To that end the Danish Government has allocated 1.5 million kroner to draw up a blueprint for the future development. It will be put out to tender in May so that the firm which wins the tender can start construction this summer. Thus, Russian servicemen will receive the first 30 homes by winter.

German Defense Minister, Kozyrev Discusses Yugoslavia

OW1304160293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their talks in Moscow on Tuesday [13 April], Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, and Germany's Defence Minister, Volker Ruehe, discussed the new role the Russian and German Defence Ministries will play in conditions of political partnership between the two countries, and the situation in former Yugoslavia.

Russian diplomats who took part in the ministerial meeting have said it was not accidental that Volker Ruehe paid his first visit to Russia's Foreign Ministry. Beginning the talks, Kozyrev pointed out that, "even though the potential alliance between Russia and Germany will not have the nature of a military bloc, and will not be directed against third countries, it will necessarily include cooperation in the area of security". What prompted this meeting was the need to consider the political aspects of this issue.

With reference to the situation in and around Bosnia-Herzegovina, the German defence minister said that German troops will take part in maintaining the "No Fly Zone" regime only partially. According to him, the German planes equipped with AWACS systems will not fly over Bosnian territory.

For his part Kozyrev noted that Moscow "is thinking over" the possibility of joining the action. However Russia will take part in it only if all the conflicting sides sign the Vance-Owen plan, and the U.N. Security Council adopts the appropriate resolution as a result. In other words, as Russian diplomats explained, Russia would be prepared to join the efforts to ensure control over how the Vance-Owen plan is observed after its endorsement by the U.N..

Defense Ministers Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD1304171693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—"We have signed a good agreement and are confident that it will be fulfilled," Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, said today at a news conference devoted to the results of his talks with Volker Ruehe, his German counterpart.

A cooperation agreement between the two countries' military departments calls for a regular exchange of information on the issues of policy, security, military legislation, and law as well as the military aspects of arms control and the training and retraining of servicemen and civilian personnel. The sides will notify each other on organizational procedures of planning within the framework of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and CSCE and will cooperate in the spheres of environment protection, military medicine and historical research.

The document signed today also calls for official visits by military delegations, consultations at the level of headquarters and specialists, exchanges of teachers and students of military higher educational establishments, visits by warships, and other events. According to Grachev, this is the most comprehensive military agreement signed by Russia with a North Atlantic alliance member-state.

The heads of military departments confirmed the timetable for withdrawing Russian troops from Germany, agreed at the level of the two states' leaders, as well as the German side's relevant obligations. "We would like the servicemen who are leaving the Western Group of Forces to return home with dignity. I see this as our main investment in the future," Ruehe noted.

Answering a question about the former Yugoslavia, Grachev stressed: "We continue to adhere to the view that ways of resolving this conflict only by politcal means should be sought." The Russian side is examining the issue of giving aid to the population of the affected regions. "We will be ready, if need be, to give humanitarian aid by air-dropping cargoes from military cargo

planes," Grachev remarked. The contingent of Russian troops in the former Yugoslavia should not be increased; according to the minister, the Russian batallion attached to the U.N. peacekeeping forces is quite sufficient at present.

Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawals

LD1304210193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's Armed Forces will never be directed against another state, and in the very near future the Supreme Soviet will be examining a new Russian military doctrine, which rejects any confrontation betweeb military blocs. This was stated by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today during his meeting with German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, who has arrived in Moscow on an official visit.

[Correspondent Aleksandr Barkhatov] For the first time in postwar history, a German defense minister has crossed the threshold of the Russian Ministry of Defense. The purpose of Ruehe's visit is to meet with Grachev and to sign an agreement on military cooperation which calls for an exchange of information under the auspices of arms control treaties. Undoubtedly, another subject of the meeting will be the withdrawal of Russian troops, which is due to be completed by 31 August 1994.

At a news conference after the signing, in reply to Grachev's expression of gratitude for the fact that the German side is fulfilling all its commitments—both financial and on transport—Ruehe said that everything is being done to ensure that the Russian troops leave Germany on time and with dignity. We would add that one that they should return home with the same feelings.

If you take into account the fact that all the construction work on the withdrawal of troops has fallen mainly on Ukraine, Belarus, and North Ossetia, then the problem is not one of honor, especially when it is Russia to which the troops are returning. [sentence as received]

[Begin recording of Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces] If our withdrawal so far amounts to virtually 70 percent of the men, equipment, and armaments, then we have withdrawn 21,000 families without housing to Russia in two years, and we have received only 2,212 houses from German firms. In other words, we have received about 11 percent. The withdrawal, therefore, is going nine times faster than the provision of accommodation. [end recording]

[Barkhatov] In a word, there is no guarantee that the personnel will be withdrawn to a reliable roof over their heads. But it is worth considering that until recently the families of the troops amounted to 90,000 children. However, this is a matter only for the Russian side.

Files on Missing American Servicemen Investigated

LD1304191693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The painstaking work to bring to light information about U.S. citizens who went missing on the USSR's territory was carried out in the Russian Defence Ministry.

A spokesman in the Defence Ministry's Press Centre told ITAR-TASS today that a large package of archive documents that sheds light on the fate of American prisoners of war and pilots in the period of the Second World War, the Cold War and the war in Korea was found.

The Defence Ministry's Central Archive compiled a file on 3,000 Americans who were repatriated in 1945-1946. The archive of the Military-Medical Museum presented over 100 pages of Xerox documents concerning the fate of American servicemen during the Second World War, the Central Navy Archive - the copies of materials reflecting actions by naval aviation to head off flights by violator aircraft in the Cold War period.

Experts compiled the lists of 59 American pilots shot down over Korea's territory in 1952-1953 and also information about 262 American servicemen taken prisoner by the North Korean Army and Chinese volunteers. Around 40 Xerox's of archive documents reflecting actions by Soviet anti-aircraft defence artillery in which 140 American aircraft were downed in seven months of the war in Korea were turned over to the U.S. side.

Documents about the fate of American servicemen taken prisoner during the war in Vietnam were not found to be deposited in archives of the Russian Defence Ministry.

U.S. Side Could Do More on Joint MIA Commission

PM1304113093 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "Ambassador Toon's Mission"]

[Text] Despite the absence of publicity and sensational statements in the press, the painstaking work of discovering the fate of Soviet Army servicemen who went missing in action during the years of the Afghan war and of U.S. soldiers in armed conflicts and incidents after World War II continues. The workload of members of the Russian-U.S. commission is heavy, and the schedule of their business trips is packed. Last week Malcolm Toon, cochairman on the American side and former U.S. ambassador to the USSR, visited the Baltic states. Directly afterward he came to Moscow.

"Our mission was treated with understanding and goodwill in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania," Toon told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent. "They allowed us to appeal to the local population through the mass media and to express our request that any information concerning the fate of military men who are neither among the living, nor listed as dead, should be passed to the commission. Leaders of the Baltic states also promised every assistance."

All the same, it is the Russian Government that is offering the most assistance in this search. Members of the commission are still studying thousands of archive documents received from state and departmental depositories of the former USSR. An official of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow told me that, of course, there is no evidence of the existence on Soviet Union territory of "camps containing hundreds of U.S. servicemen" captured during the fulfillment of their service duties. There is no such evidence, because there were no such incidents. At the same time, in some cases the work with archive documents makes it possible to clarify the circumstances of, say, how violations of the USSR's aerial borders were stopped in the fifties. Even when the families of pilots receive the sorrowful news that their son, husband, or father died decades ago, this is better than the ignorance in which the relatives of the deceased have passed all these long years.

The Americans rate very highly the degree of collaboration of the Russian side, which is headed by Dmitriy Volkogonov. And here we are entitled to expect reciprocity. After all, up to now the impression has arisen that we will have to wait a long time for the help promised by the United States in searching for our compatriots missing in action in Afghanistan. And after all, it is no secret that the CIA and the Pentagon had (and apparently still have) a great deal of influence among various political and military groupings in that country. Therefore Washington's possibilities are also somewhat greater.

Search for U.S. MIA's Continues, Spreads to Lithuania

PM1304110493 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 6

[Valeriy Rudnev report: "Search for U.S. POW's Continues in Russia. And Starts in Lithuania"]

[Text] The latest plenary session of the joint Russian-U.S. commission investigating the fate of U.S. MIA's during and after World War II has begun in Moscow. It will discuss important documents found recently in the former USSR's secret archives.

We would remind you that this commission was set up in March 1992. On the Russian side it is led by General Dmitriy Volkogonov, the well-known historian and Russian Federation presidential adviser for defense questions, and on the U.S. side by Malcolm Toon, former U.S. ambassador to the USSR, now ambassador at large. Four periods are being studied: World War II, the Cold War, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Moreover, at the Russian side's request, U.S. investigators are helping us learn the fate of Soviet soldiers and officers captured in Afghanistan. Apart from searching through archives, the commission members meet and talk with officials, witnesses, and other citizens who have any information about the fate of U.S. MIA's.

Incidentally, the U.S. researchers are expanding the limits of their search. A few days ago a delegation led by Toon visited Vilnius, where it was received by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

According to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Toon described the aims of the U.S. delegation's visit as follows: "The main aims are to effect a reciprocal exchange of information about U.S. World War II POW's, to familiarize representatives of the Lithuanian Government with our activity, and, perhaps most importantly, to have an opportunity to ask the republic's people who were at one time in the Soviet GULAG to provide any information they have about U.S. citizens in Stalin's camps."

The U.S. ambassador at large particularly pointed out that promising cooperation in this sphere has been developed with the Russian authorities and in particular with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, "who was the first to extend a helping hand to the U.S. side."

At the previous commission session in December 1992, the Russian side gave the Americans a list of 733 U.S. citizens who were until recently listed as MIA's (IZVESTIYA No. 274, 1992). During the current meeting, Gen. D. Volkogonov is expected to hand Ambassador Toon important material that has only recently been found in the former USSR's secret archives. According to competent sources, the material consists of documents that shed additional light on events in the Korean and Vietnam wars and provide new points of reference in the search for the U.S. MIA's.

Pakistan Offers To Help Free POW's in Afghanistan

LD1304122593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Moscow has welcomed the recent statement by Pakistani Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif saying that he personally and his government will do everything in their power to secure the release of former Soviet prisoners of war held in Afghanistan, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a news conference here today.

We express the hope that Nawaz Sharif's statement appealing to leaders of the Islamic state of Afghanistan to free former Soviet prisoners of war, and what is more

important, their actual release, will have top-priority significance for creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding, sincerity and confidence in relations between Russia and Pakistan, Yastrzhembskiy stressed.

Volunteers Recruited To Fight in Caucasus Area

LD1304174093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1303 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] As the CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent has learned from reliable competent sources, volunteers are being recruited on Russian territory for service in the "hot spots" of the Caucasus region. Particularly active has been the National Republican Party of Russia and the Cossack Assembly [Kazatskoe Sobranie] of Saratov Oblast, which has been creating Cossack units lately to fight on the side of the Abkhazian extremists.

The above-mentioned organizations are involved in training future fighters, who get offers of large sums of money for their "services." The combat training is held at bases on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Grachev Cited on Progress of Talks With Georgia

PM1304161193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "How To Settle Conflict in Abkhazia. Russo-Georgian Talks Continue"]

[Text] It was intended that the delegations' working groups would meet on the morning of 8 April during the Russo-Georgian talks in Sochi. However, everything took a different course. Delegation heads Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, and Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua immediately started discussing two draft agreements for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, after which the Russian delegation head issued a statement. Pavel Grachev said that, out of the 13 questions on the agenda, it had proved possible to resolve the economic and financial questions. He singled out three main issues—trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Georgia, the provision of financial credits, and securing free trade agreements. All 13 questions are ready for initialing; they must, however, be discussed and approved by the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The second set of questions concerned the humanitarian aid that Russia will offer Georgia via the State Committee for Emergency Situations. It is above all a question of delivering this aid to areas that have been particularly affected by the armed conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia and also of eliminating the aftermath of the methane explosions at the three mines in Tkvarcheli. By and large the Georgian side agreed with the Russian proposals; however, the Georgian side links the provision of humanitarian aid to the question of supplying power to Sukhumi city.

Touching on the third set of problems, involving military-political questions, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev stressed that the draft agreement on a peace settlement in Abkhazia submitted by the Georgian side "is still unacceptable to Russia" because the main obligations with regard to its implementation "rest with the Russian side, while the Georgian side takes virtually no responsibility, and there is no mention of the third side—Abkhazia."

The Russian version of a peace settlement in Abkhazia includes a cease-fire between the warring parties and the establishment of a transitional "cooling-off" period.

When asked about establishing a security and demarcation zone in Abkhazia between the warring parties, the Russian delegation head remarked that from the military viewpoint there are no insuperable problems here. Everything rests once again on politics. Today the main question is to decide the coordinates of this zone.

"I hope that by evening one document will have emerged from the two—a document that will be acceptable to Russia, Georgia, and Abkhazia," Pavel Grachev said. At the same time, touching on yesterday's report of a possible meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, and the Russian delegation head, he said: "If the military-political question is not resolved, there is no point at this stage in my meeting with Mr. Shevardnadze. In that case we will note that talks have been held on the most pressing issues and should be continued another time."

During the afternoon Army Gen. Pavel Grache met with representatives of the Armenian and Azerbaijani Governments. Tripartite talks began in which Russia is to act as mediator in the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict.

Abkhazia Compromise Seen as Key to Success of Georgia Talks

PM1304150993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 1

[G. Bochkarev and S. Chernykh report: "Kitovani Misses Dinner"]

[Text] Russo-Georgian talks are into their third day at the "Zhemchug" Restaurant at the "Zhemchuzhina" Hotel in Sochi, which had a famous history as part of the "Intourist" organization and was "home" to the first Soviet prostitutes. The Russian and Georgian delegation have divided the main questions of bilateral relations into three groups—the economy, politics, and military problems. Of course, things were easiest for the economists. Economies know no borders, and it is far easier for banking specialists, say, to understand each other than it is for generals to reach agreement. Incidentally, the Georgian military have new uniforms. They are rather reminiscent of the uniforms of officers in the Western countries.

On the eve of day one of the talks in Sochi, Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, head of the Georgian delegation, asked Mayor Nikolay Karpov of Sochi to provide no food or drink to negotiators who failed to reach mutually acceptable agreements on their troops. They are all still eating, thank God.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who is heading the Russian Federation delegation at the Sochi talks, is spotlighting the military-political aspects.

"Even an economic agreement cannot be reached without resolving the military issues," Grachev stated.

Information has been seeping out in very small doses from behind the closed doors of the restaurant where the delegations are in session. For instance, we have learned that the delegations have differing views on the seismological laboratory in Eshery. As is well known, this ill-starred installation is guarded by Russian assault troops. And, although both sides seemed to have agreed to declare the Esheri Seismological laboratory a no-go area [neprikosnovennaya zona], friction did nonetheless emerge. Georgia is insisting that the Russian Army's 901st Assault Battalion be withdrawn from Esheri.

"We unambiguously agreed with Mr. Sigua that the question of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia would not be examined until 1995," Pavel Grachev told us.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What about withdrawal from Abkhazia?

[Grachev] We are working on the basis that Abkhazia is part of Georgia and, consequently, our troops will remain there too. [Grachev ends]

Undoubtedly, the number one topic at the Sochi talks is the ending of the conflict in Abkhazia. All the other issues are "linked" one way or another to this subject. If Russia and Georgia fail to reach a compromise in their approach to a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia, one can hardly expect any success to come out of the Sochi meeting.

This was confirmed late yesterday. Georgian Defense Minister Kitovani ran out of the room and stated that he would only participate in the talks after Russia had immediately withdrawn its troops from Abkhazia.

Armenian, Russian Roles in Karabakh Breakout Denied

PM1304141793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 7

[Karen Topchyan report: "Russian Army Not Fighting in Karabakh"]

[Excerpts] Yerevan—Over the last few days there has been a drastic deterioration in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, with fierce fighting in progress to the west of the region, in the Azerbaijan Republic's Kelbadzharskiy and Lachinskiy Rayons. I asked Armen Dulyan, head of the [Armenian] Defense Ministry Press Service, for some explanations as to Armenia's position. [passage omitted]

Asked whether an Armenian expeditionary corps is taking part in military operations, Mr. Dulyan replied: "As you know, there is a war going on between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The latter is doing it utmost to try to embroil Armenia in the war, but I can state with full responsibility that Armenia's armed forces are not taking part in the operations being conducted by Nagorno-Karabakh Republic self-defense forces."

As for the rumors that, without Russian Army aid, the Karabakh Armenians would hardly have succeeded in achieving military success in the north of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and now in Azerbaijan, Valeriy Babkin, commander of the 127th Russian Division, said in an interview with SNARK: "This is just a provocation. We are not here to fight anyone. Our aim is to protect Russia's interests and guard the former Union's borders. According to the agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation we are guarding Armenia's state border with Turkey." [passage omitted]

Iran's 'Principled Stance' on Karabakh Conflict Praised

NC1404073593 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Vladimir Pronin commentary]

[Text] With the armed conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh intensifying, the world has focused on the brief visit by Azerbaijani Vice President Panakh Guseynov to Iran. Radio Moscow commentator Vladimir Pronin writes:

Panakh Guseynov's unexpected visit came after Azerbaijani Ambassador in Tehran Nasib Nasibzade twice asked Iranian officials for material and moral assistance to defend the city of Fizuli. This city lies 30 km north of the Iranian border, and Baku believes that spreading military activities to an area so close to the Iranian border will threaten Iranian security and compel Tehran to adopt a more decisive stance.

Apparently, the Azerbaijani representative was hopeful. But now that details of Panakh Guseynov's meetings with high-ranking Iranian officials are known, one can say that he fulfilled only half of his mission's objectives.

For now, Iran has only reproached Armenia and has not made any statement changing its principled stance on a Karabakh solution. The thrust of the remarks by Iranian officials with whom Panakh Guseynov met was that Azerbaijan and Armenia should resume the peace talks aimed at achieving a solution based on the Tehran agreement, which concerned the principles of a solution and was signed in Tehran in May last year. But this

agreement remained on paper because of the occupation of Shusha by the Armenian forces soon after the agreement was signed.

After its first mediation effort failed, Tehran did not halt its efforts to achieve a just solution to the conflict. Iranian officials maintained their impartiality throughout the conflict. They maintained their contacts with the sides involved in the conflict and also participated in preparations for the CSCE peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, which was held in Minsk.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said his country is ready to help solve the differences of opinion between the conflicting sides and to do so through joint efforts with third countries.

Iranian public opinion clearly favors Azerbaijan. Armenia's [words indistinct] acts are being assessed as blatant aggression and most [Iranian] newspapers support more decisive interference in the conflict in favor of Azerbaijan. Under these conditions, keeping a distance from expressions of extremism [words indistinct] and Tehran's official stance becomes more difficult.

The reality that about 10 million Azerbaijanis and 250,000 Armenians live in Iran should not be forgotten and any incautious statement by the Iranian Government can also upset peace between the two nationalities in Iran. So a commentary published in the moderate newspaper ABRAR better reflects Iran's official stance. The newspaper writes: There is no doubt that the only alternative is a peaceful solution of the conflict, although aggression in any form is condemned.

The fate of regional peace depends on this reality being understood in the capitals of the conflicting sides. The future will show the usefulness of the recent visit by Azerbaijani Vice President Panakh Guseynov to Tehran.

Moscow Azerbaijanis Claim Deal Struck With Armenia

OW1004161393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The critical situation in Azerbaijan following Armenia's aggression in Kelbadzhar District has put an end to the Azeri people's hope that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem may be solved in the near future, said members of Moscow's Azeri community at a meeting in the Azerbaijani mission in the Russian capital on Saturday [10 April]. They described the state of emergency declared by President Abulfaz Elchibey as a "cover for dictatorship" and urged the Popular Front, "which has become bankrupt in every way, to voluntarily cede the positions of power it has seized to healthy political forces and leaders."

Some of the speakers said one of the ways to end the crisis was for Azerbaijan to share the interests of other republics of the former Soviet Union, and called on the country to return to the Commonwealth of Independent States. Others appealed for peace in Azerbaijani society and support for the president at the present critical moment. However, everyone at the meeting agreed that there were those in Russia who were interested in permanently fanning up the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict.

The meeting passed a resolution saying that "the tragedy of Kelbadzhar has become yet another link in a secret deal between the Armenian chauvinists and the Russian hawks aimed at the implementation of the ominous plan of annexing Azerbaijani land and creating a 'Great Armenia' on what has always been Azerbaijani territory."

Spokesman Terms Ukraine Nuclear Stance 'Primitive'

LD1304163393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, told a briefing today that Ukraine's position on nuclear weapons deployed on its territory was "primitive and reminiscent of the Cold War". He was commenting on a statement by the press service of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, published in response to the Russian Government's expression of concern over the complications that have arisen in connection with nuclear weapons stationed on Ukrainian territory.

Noting that Ukraine's "nuclear drift" was causing growing concern in world public opinion, Yastrzhembskiy declared that the Ukrainian Government's document contained no answers to the specific proposals made by Russia on this issue, nor any concrete initiatives of their own. On the contrary, he stressed, Ukraine continues to demand "endless guarantees and sweeteners" from the international community as conditions for honoring the commitments that the Ukrainian leaders have already given—namely, to ratify the START I Treaty and to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state.

Referring to Russia's actions, the diplomat stressed that Russia had not only declared its readiness to ensure that the nuclear materials obtained as a result of the elimination of nuclear warheads can be used as fuel for Ukrainian nuclear power stations, but had also provided Kiev the necessary computations and a draft agreement on this. However, there has not been any reply from the Ukrainian side.

According to Yastrzhembskiy, Ukraine was also proposed a detailed program, the implementation of which would have eased concern over nuclear weapons. Russia proposed in its program to cease, by 1 August 1993,

training sorties on all nuclear weapon delivery vehicles temporarily stationed on Ukrainian territory; to withdraw, by 1 August 1994, to Russian Federation central factory bases the heads of intercontinental ballistic missiles and their warheads, with the aim of subsequent disassembly; and to move, by 1 August 1993, to a reduced level of combat readiness and withdraw to Russian Federation central factory bases the nuclear warheads of long-range cruise missiles for heavy bombers temporarily stationed on Ukrainian territory, with the aim of subsequent disassembly.

According to the diplomat, Russia is also ready to give Ukraine help on the question of destroying delivery vehicles used both for heavy bombers (the appropriate proposal has already been sent to the Ukrainian side) and missiles. It is specifically this problem that Ukraine has described as overly difficult. The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman warned against the possibility that Kiev will divide two closely connected questions—the ratification of the START I treaty and its joining in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state. Detaching one question from the other, he stressed, would be a violation of the Lisbon obligations and would create obstacles to the process of genuine nuclear disarmament.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Ukraine for 'Nuclear Drift'

OW1304160493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1528 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's "nuclear drift" makes the world community increasingly concerned, the Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, Sergey Yastrzembskiy, said at Tuesday's [13 April] briefing in Moscow. In its statement issued in response to the Russian government's statement concerning nuclear arms deployed in Ukraine, Kiev said nothing to alleviate Moscow's concern. It made no "concrete" proposals either.

In the meantime, said Yastrzembskiy, Ukrainian diplomacy is trying to "ease" the world community's anxiety by resorting to "rather standard methods". "It is doing so even though Russia pursues no such policy," he said.

According to Yastrzembskiy, Kiev persists in piling up demands aimed at obtaining "endless" guarantees and "indulgences" from the world community. It demands that Ukraine be paid billions of dollars for ratifying the START-1 Treaty and for joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a denuclearized state. "If this isn't a political game around nuclear weaponry, what is it?" he asked.

According to the diplomat, Russia did not simply declare its willingness to do its best to enable Ukraine to use the nuclear materials obtained as a result of utilizing nuclear warheads as fuel for its nuclear-power plants. All the calculations and the relevant draft agreement were forwarded to Kiev. "However we have been waiting for a reply in vain for over a month now,"said Yastrzembskiy.

Kiev has been given a detailed program, whose implementation "would put an end to the anxiety concerning nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine", he said. Moscow suggested to Kiev: 1. Cancel before August 1, 1993, the targetings for all delivery vehicles temporarily deployed in Ukraine.

2. Remove the warheads from the ICBM and take them to Russian territory for their further dismantling before August 1, 1994.

3. Put on lower combat readiness the nuclear warheads of the long-range cruise missiles for heavy bombers temporarily deployed in Ukraine and remove them to Russia before August 1, 1993, for their further dismantling.

According to Yastrzembskiy, Russia is prepared to give Ukraine the most effective aid in the efforts to scrap the delivery vehicles. "We are willing to resolve this problem also in regard to heavy bombers (the relevant proposal was already submitted to Ukraine), and in regard to missiles," he said.

Yastrzembskiy also voiced concern over the possibility that Kiev will "blow" two issues: Ukraine's ratification of the START-1 Treaty and its joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in the capacity of a denuclearized state. "Such an approach signifies that some people in Kiev intend to either go on with Ukraine's "nuclear drift", or continue to stir public opinion. In any case to separate one issue from the other would mean to violate the commitment made in Lisbon and put obstacles on the road to genuine nuclear disarmament," he stressed.

Reasons for Government's Statement Examined

PM1304090993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 2

[Igor Sukhanov report: "Is Ukraine Threatened With Another Chernobyl? That Danger Has Arisen Because the Country's Leaders Are Refusing To Carry Out Their Nuclear Weapons Pledges"]

[Text] The Russian Government's recent statement on nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory appeared for many reasons.

As you know, L. Kravchuk's signature on the decision by the CIS heads of state on nuclear weapons nonproliferation defines Ukraine's status as a state without nuclear weapons. However, a Ukrainian presidential edict of 5 April 1992 (No. 209) followed by Order No. 09 [as published] issued by the Ukrainian defense minister on

23 April 92 included the 43rd Missile and 46th Air Armies and their combat units—176 missile launch systems and 43 strategic bombers—in the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

In May 1992 the personnel of two nuclear-technical units in the 46th Air Army, where roughly 670 strategic nuclear warheads [boyezaryady] are sited, took the Ukrainian oath. The flight personnel of all the strategic bombers also took the Ukrainian oath. There is constant pressure on servicemen in the 43rd Missile Army to take the Ukrainian oath. Ukraine has thus obtained the potential to use nuclear weapons.

In January 1993 a new subunit was formed within the Ukrainian Armed Forces structure—the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Center for Administrative Control of the Strategic Nuclear Forces.

All these and other elements undoubtedly indicate one thing: UKraine clearly aspires to the status of a nuclear power.

That is why Kiev refused when Russia asked to take the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory under its jurisdiction. The same fate befell a compromise proposed by Moscow whereby nuclear warhead assemblies would be detached from ballistic missiles and long-range cruise missiles within a very short period—roughly 18 months—and moved to Russian territory for destruction under Ukrainian supervision and targeting information would be removed over the following few months from all nuclear weapons delivery vehicles in order to completely preclude the use of nuclear weapons.

Instead it became obvious during the second round of Russian-Ukrainian talks at the beginning of March 1993 that Ukraine has no intention of completely eliminating the strategic arms on its territory within seven years as envisaged by the START I Treaty. Kiev is trying to force Russia to recognize that the nuclear weapons belong to Ukraine and, what is more, is striving to ensure that Russia takes responsibility for ensuring the safekeeping of those weapons.

At a press conference in connection with the Russian Federation Government statement, Russian Deputy Defense Minister B. Gromov stressed: "Nuclear weapons cannot have two owners and nuclear safety cannot be ensured by two entities. Russia is not failing to supply Ukraine with replacement subassemblies for the nuclear weapons in order to put pressure on Ukraine. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry promptly replaces all sets of assemblies on nuclear munitions under Russian statehood alone."

Trade Official on Southeast Asian Prospects, Arms Sales

OW1404094793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0646 GMT 14 Apr 93

["Exclusive" interview with Sergey Glazyev, deputy minister of foreign economic relations; first graf is INTERFAX introduction—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The last issue carried an interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, who recently visited several countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific as a member of a delegation headed by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Here is what Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev thinks of prospects for Russia's economic relations with countries in that region.

Glazyev was also in Rutskoy's delegation.

"IF" [INTERFAX]: You recently visited Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore. What economic interests does Russia have in Southeast Asia and the Pacific?

GLAZYEV: The region is a rapidly increasing market, since the population is quickly growing there and its living standards are going up. Besides, Russia could have long-term interests there, for it could be selling its technologies on a mutually advantageous basis.

This region has the world's highest rate of economic growth, between five and ten percent a year. This rate is very likely to be sustained, because the economies of those countries are not encumbered by any obsolete technologies, and the work force is disciplined and fairly well trained. I believe the region may become one of the main markets for Russia, not only as regards our exports but also as regards joint production on the basis of Russian technologies and re-export.

"IF": Do you think those countries are interested in our technologies and our exports?

GLAZYEV: Certainly. Russia has considerable advantages in some high technology industries, such as the aerospace industry, aircraft building, shipbuilding, or space services. The market in that region is to a great extent monopolized by transnational corporations from industrialized countries such as the United States, Japan, and some European states. If Russia gets itself a place in that market, the existence of those companies will be much less pleasant than it is today, because there are artificial restrictions on competition there, including political pressure put on countries which are consumers of such output.

It is a normal policy for Western companies to pursue in science-intensive industry markets to sell outdated commodities and raise obstacles to sales of state of the art ones. The reason is that renovation requires large investments, and that considerably increases production costs. It is natural that a company should seek to make a profit

on the same kind of technology for as long as possible. This means that limits are set to both technological and price competition, whereas Russia can offer a lower price and higher quality at the same time.

"IF": How much lower can our prices be?

GLAZYEV: I think they could be much lower for the output of practically all the industries I have mentioned. The differences can range between 20 and several hundred percent.

But this is not the main point. The main point is that in Southeast Asia there are some very dynamic companies with very ambitious plans. The governments there are trying to accelerate industrial development. World experience shows that it is usually new companies that cause upheavals in markets, while those which dominate them usually stick to defensive tactics.

"IF": Do you think those monopoly companies will take no steps to bar Russia from the market in Southeast Asia and Pacific?

GLAZYEV: They are certainly resisting in every way, even making use of their contacts in the governments of those countries. Thus, in the arms markets, our competitors practically always resort to political pressure in an effort to make various countries avoid buying Russian arms.

"IF": Is that the reason why Russia was unable to sell a large number of MiG-29 aircraft to Malaysia?

GLAZYEV: That was one of the reasons but there were others too. First of all, before such matters are negotiated there are certain points on which several governmental bodies in Russia have to agree, and that takes a long time. So on some points the talks are still going on. Secondly, there was greater competition, since the American companies had to drastically cut down the prices for their aircraft trying to keep Russian planes out of the market. I suspect that they could afford to do that not because they could make cheaper aircraft but because they had been promised subsidies by their government.

"IF": What makes you think so?

GLAZYEV: It costs a lot less to produce some kinds of Russian aircraft than to make similar kinds of American ones. So naturally the Americans charge higher prices for their planes. They may have been making enormous profits, of course, but these days their military corporations barely manage to make ends meet, so I don't think they have a lot of extra funds left.

"IF": By how much did they get down their prices?

GLAZYEV: According to our estimates, by 30 or 40 percent. I don't think they could have managed this without government support.

"IF": What can our potential partners be interested in beside warplanes?

GLAZYEV: For some reason, it was just this affair with the MiGs that has been given such publicity, although we would like to export civilian as well as military aircraft, especially some new makes which can compete with modern American and West European ones in every respect but are much cheaper at the same time. ASEAN countries, for example, are interested in Russian high-speed ships, both naval and passenger ones.

Those countries have well-developed market economies, and there aren't too many economic problems the governments take up there. Russia should have closer contacts with direct consumers there. We should also make use of their advantages in making products to be sold in third countries. Russian technologies and scientific potential could make a fruitful and promising combination with those countries' experience in market economics.

"IF": Did you have any concrete projects to discuss during your visit?

GLAZYEV: No, we didn't set ourselves any concrete aims. We just wanted to have some of the old barriers removed. Those countries still have some apprehensions about Russia, so such visits are very important in the sense that can help get rid of that cold war legacy. Our main task is to convince the governments and businessmen in those countries that Russia is a reliable and promising partner.

Chinese Admiral Inspects Warship in Vladivostok

LD1304144193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] After his familiarization with the Northern Fleet, Zhang Lianzhong, commander in chief of China's Navy, arrived in Vladivostok. This visit finally breaks the long interruption in relations between the Pacific Fleet and the Chinese Navy. The closeness of those past contacts was underscored by the fact that some of the higher-ranking officers in the commander in chief's entourage have not forgotten the Russian they learned at our naval schools and academies. The admiral inspected our ships very attentively from the keel to the after truck [klotik]; we understand that the possibility of selling Russian warships to China is not groundless. The Chinese commander did not confirm this, but nor did he deny it, saying literally: Our close cooperation has many layers and includes military-technical matters. The snag would seem to be the currency. China still prefers the traditional bartering, but our leadership evidently does not want to exchange warships for "Great Wall" pressed meat.

[Video shows Chinese naval officer being welcomed on board the Grozyashchyy; guests being shown around deck and below decks]

Commentator on Need To Resolve DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1404044793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 11 April 93

[By station commentator (Kavayev) from the "Review of Weekly Situation" program]

[Text] Upon hearing the report of Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], in connection with the DPRK's refusal to receive international inspection of its two military facilities [kunsa sisol], the UN Security Council decided not to take any sanctions against the DPRK and recommended that the DPRK carry out additional talks with them.

Station commentator (Kavayev) writes as follows:

Before the UN Security Council deliberated this issue, the world's mass media carried various opinions in this regard.

Trustee countries of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]—Russia, the United States, and Great Britain—dealt with this issue more passively but with responsibility.

In a joint statement, these countries appealed to the DPRK to thoroughly implement the obligations of the safeguards accord with the IAEA and reconsider its decision to withdraw from the NPT. This position was reaffirmed at the Vancouver summit held between the leaders of Russia and the United States.

In its report to the United Nations, the IAEA concluded by saying that economic sanctions against the DPRK, if imposed, would not be a timely measure.

China, as one of the Security Council's standing members, could exercise its veto right on the Security Council's decision and thereby deter the Council from taking such a measure. Beijing made appeals for resolving the issue through conferences and consultative meetings, and at the same time, hinted that it will exercise its veto right if confrontation is intensified between the IAEA and Pyongyang.

Therefore, the UN Security Council's recommendation that this issue be resolved through meetings further consolidates the already established opinion.

The issue of nuclear security on the Korean peninsula should no doubt be resolved immediately. Moreover, the issue concerns not only the inspection of DPRK facilities [sisol]—Seoul's nuclear plans also require overall research and review.

According to media reports, Seoul's nuclear plan was drawn up during President Pak Chong-hui's rule.

We should also turn our attention to U.S. military bases throughout the ROK. Pyongyang says U.S. nuclear weapons still exist in the ROK. In conclusion, this issue concerns at least three parties—the DPRK, the United States, and the ROK.

Kozyrev To Resume Central Asian Tour

OW1304160993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] New dates for the Russian foreign minister's visit to Ashgabat and Tashkent have not been fixed yet, even though there is no doubt that such visits will take place, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official told Interfax on Tuesday [13 April].

At the end of last week Andrey Kozyrev suspended his Asian tour at President Yeltsin's request, and returned to Moscow earlier than planned. After that he spoke on telephone with President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan and with President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan. "Those were very warm conversations," the diplomat said.

According to tentative plans, the Russian foreign minister's trips to Ashgabat and Tashkent might take place before the end of April, he noted. In the course of these visits Kozyrev intends to brief the leaders of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the results of his recent trips to Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Rutskoy Discusses Ties With Syrian Delegation

JN1404065193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow—Yesterday evening, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy received Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and vice chairman of the Syrian National Progressive Front, and his delegation during their stopover in Moscow en route to Pyongyang.

At the outset of the meeting, Aleksandr Rutskoy asked Dr. Mashariqah to relay his warm greetings to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The two officials reviewed Syrian-Russian ties in all spheres. They also affirmed the importance of enhancing the ties of cooperation between the two countries and expressed concern to promote them.

The two sides also reviewed the Middle East situation and underlined the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

Moscow Rejects Estonia's 'Territorial Claims'

PM1304112493 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 3

[Report by Vasiliy Fatigarov and Valeriy Gromak: "Talks Have Lasted One Year Already. Estonia Still Insists on Territorial Claims Against Russia"]

[Text] Russian-Estonian talks have been going on for a year now, but still no agreement has been reached on the vexing question of the withdrawal of Russian Federation troops. The latest round of talks—the 10th—held near Moscow has confirmed this.

Agreement was reached only on economic problems—the mutual protection of investments, trade, and economic regulations. But the most important questions, concerning the presence of Russian troops in Estonia, social protection of military pensioners, and citizenship for the Russian-speaking population, remain unresolved. Russian Federation Special Envoy Vasiliy Svirin, leader of the Russian delegation, noted at a press conference that the opinions of the sides are directly opposite. The envoy considers the settlement of questions of citizenship in Estonia as critical.

Estonian Minister of State Juri Luik [title as published], leader of the Estonian delegation, continued to insist at this press conference on the return of his republic to the borders of 1920; that is to say, territorial claims were in effect made against Russia. He also expressed concern over nuclear facilities on Estonian territory, meaning the Russian Navy Training Center in Paldiski. Here the position is understandable. The thing is that Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar stated in the Estonian parliament on the eve of the talks that "a great deal of interest is being displayed abroad" in the naval base in Paldiski. Although on the whole Laar expressed satisfaction with the Russian side's agreement to resolve the problem of the reactors at an international level, including specialists from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Estonian side is still rushing thoughtlessly to dismantle the nuclear facility, which is surprising.

As for the withdrawal of our troops, the Russian side's stance at the talks is unequivocal—the withdrawal is continuing (7,600 Russian military men and an insignificant quantity of equipment remain in Estonia) and will be carried out within a realistic timetable. But the Russian Federation is justly seeking social guarantees for military pensioners and observation of human rights in Estonia. On the border issue, Vasiliy Svirin stated the following:

"We will regard any attempts or intentions to revive the question of the 1920 border as an attempt to undermine stability in Europe."

The next round of talks will take place in Estonia 6-7 May.

Foreign Ministry on Russian Troops in CIS States

PM1304114493 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Statement issued by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry; date not given: "On the Presence of Russian Troops in Commonwealth States"]

[Text] Tendentious coverage of the presence of Russian troops on the territory of a number of former USSR republics has appeared from time to time in the mass media and in statements issued by officials of some countries. Consequently, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry would like to make the following statement:

The formation of new sovereign republics in place of the former USSR has led to a situation in which a significant proportion of Russian troops together with combat hardware and military property has been left outside Russia's borders. It has proved necessary to resolve extremely complex political, military-technical, and socioeconomic problems relating to these issues within a very tight timeframe, including the problems of defining the status of these troops, the terms governing their temporary presence in these states, and the timeframe for their withdrawal.

Russia favors regulating all these issues by exclusively civilized means, on a treaty basis, through consultations and talks. We are consistently guided by this principle in withdrawing our troops from, for example, the Baltic countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova, and also in reaching agreement on their status with the states where they will remain by mutual consent for a period determined by both sides.

Bilateral agreements on the legal status of Russian Armed Forces have already been signed with Armenia and Turkmenistan. These agreements record the fact that the authorities in the country where the Russian troops are staying respect the special legal position of the Russian troops and also enshrine social and property guarantees for the servicemen. For their part, the Russian troops undertake to rigorously respect the sovereignty and local legislation of these states, and in no way to interfere in their internal affairs. Talks are also being held with some other Commonwealth states on the terms governing the troops' temporary presence and the procedure for using military installations. In a number of cases, issues regarding assistance in the establishment of national armies and the transfer of certain weapons to them are also being resolved.

Working mainly on the premise that the presence of Russian military contingents in Commonwealth states is temporary, the Russian Federation believes that their final withdrawal cannot be carried out without a satisfactory resolution of the issues of housing in the areas

where they are due to be redeployed and the establishment of normal living conditions for servicemen and members of their families. All sides concerned are urged to participate in this task.

In certain circumstances where appropriate agreements exist, Russian military personnel could participate in peacekeeping operations—for example in separating warring sides, upholding law and order, guarding important installations essential to survival, and rendering humanitarian assistance to the population. Participation of this sort indisputably meets the interests of ensuring peace, security, and stability over a vast region which includes a whole group of new independent states.

At the same time, this places a heavy burden of political and moral responsibility on Russia and entails considerable material expenditure at a time when Russia itself is experiencing extremely grave economic difficulties. We are therefore entitled to expect support for these peacekeeping efforts from other CIS member states, the United Nations, the CSCE, international public opinion, and the world community as a whole.

Russian Naval Assets Transferred to Baltic States

OW1304171093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1644 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 40% of all the Russia's Baltic navy AF [aviation forces] have been already given to the Baltic states. The chief of the testing field service of the Baltic navy AF colonel Stepan Prikhodko informed that on Monday "all the official papers necessary for further transfer of the AR [as received] objects were prepared'.

In order to finalize the details the chief of the rear service of the Baltic navy AF major-general Veniamin Galkin will meet next week the command of Russia's North-Western troops located in the Baltic states.

Central Bank Limits Foreign Investment in National Banks

OW1304173593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia has limited to 12 percent the proportion of total capital held by banks with foreign investments in the total capital of the Russian commercial banks. Central Bank deputy chairman Dmitry Tulin told Interfax on Tuesday [13 April] that the purpose of the measure was to protect Russian banking capital while time leaving foreign banks certain access to the Russian market. [sentence as received]

Tulin said the Central Bank's decision was expected to raise the efficiency of the Russian banking system and encourage foreign business to make investments in Russia.

Some of the clauses in the directive established stricter regulations for banks with foreign capital than for other commercial banks, Tulin said. "At the same time, the new Central Bank regulations are civilized and do not contradict world practice," he said.

At the end of 1992, the Russian parliament's Planning and Budgetary Commission drafted a decree that would declare a moratorium on issuing licenses to foreign banks until 1994 and cancel the licenses that had already been issued. However, parliament did not pass the document, largely owing to the position taken by the Central Bank, which insisted on "reasonable protectionism" in this area.

For the full text of the Central Bank's document and a detailed commentary on it see No. 15 of the Banking & Finance weekly.

Kozyrev, Dutch Counterpart Pledge Greater Cooperation

LD1304172493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Russia and the Netherlands signed a joint statement upon the results of the talks between Russian and Dutch Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Peter Kooijmans today.

The document says the ministers expressed the determination to help consolidate a new single Europe on the basis of democracy, freedom, respect for human rights and also the principles of the market economy by increasing and expanding bilateral consultations and cooperation.

The ministers emphasised the desire to make use of all opportunities for achieving a political settlement of the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and former Soviet republics and help maintain security and cooperation in Europe relying on the potentialities of the CSCE and other international organisations and forums.

They recognised that the dynamic increase in exchanges, including in the field of culture and science will promote mutual understanding and help contain rising ethnic tension and nationalism in Europe.

Mindful of Kooijmans's tour of the Baltic countries, it was emphasised that the respect of human rights and the honour of the high standards of the CSCE and the Council of Europe are of the universal nature and cannot be modified. The two gave unqualified support to the activity of the CSCE's high commissioner for the affairs of ethnic minorities.

As the two countries are set to implement further the CSCE's principles and commitments and encourage the development of cultural and economic links, the ministers agreed that they will seek to ensure the freedom of movement for citizens of one country on the territory of the other.

They agreed to carry out during a year a joint inventory of the bilateral treaties and agreements concluded by the former USSR and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Foreign Economic Minister Begins Latin American Tour

LD1304224793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1715 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Alekseyev]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr—For Russia, Latin America is a promising region for the development of all forms of cooperation—especially for Russian goods with a high degree of processing. This was stated in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Sergey Glazyev, Russian minister of foreign economic relations, who is leading a Russian delegation on a tour, which began yesterday, of a number of countries in Latin America.

The Russian minister had brief working meetings here today with representatives of Argentina's official and business circles. In addition to officials from Russia's foreign trade and economic services, the delegation includes Russian entrepreneurs. According to the minister, their presence in the delegation is consistent with the general plan for developing relations with the Latin American region.

Russian firms are very active in the local market. Thanks to their efforts, many Russian goods have appeared in the region. Private firms operating in the Latin American market are extending the export opportunities for Russian state enterprises. The activities of these structures are like catalysts in developing bilateral cooperation with Latin America.

The Russian delegation left for Uruguay today.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Holds News Conference in Kremlin 14 Apr

LD1404101693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] President Yeltsin met with journalists in the Kremlin today on the eve of the referendum. [Words indistinct] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said, among other things:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The main question which needs to be answered is what is the meaning of the referendum. What has forced the president at this difficult moment [passage indistinct] to appeal to citizens of the Russian Federation? Why has the majority of the Congress, despite the fact that it does not need the referendum—it is even dangerous to it—but nevertheless it has not dared to bury it again?

The first reason is that the political crisis has been aggravated to the utmost. It has reached an extremely dangerous point and, moreover, one from which it could fall off into the abyss. Externally, this is manifested in the fact that [word indistinct] the central powers of the country, legislative and executive, the president and government, the congress, and Supreme Soviet cannot come to agreement.

But in real life it is all much deeper and more serious. It is essentially a question of the fact that two irreconcilable positions regarding Russia's past, present, and future have clashed. That is where the main crisis lies.

The economic reform has brought us all to the resolution of the radical question in society's life—the question of ownership. The old system, firmly rooted in the apparatus of officials and the former structures, does not wish to let go of ownership and does not want to yield ownership to the citizens of Russia. The further this confrontation goes, the harder and more devious it becomes. It literally paralyzes all the efforts of the Presidency and the structures of executive power.

Congresses of deputies gather together more and more often for counteraction. The congresses endlessly write and rewrite the long-suffering Russian Constitution. The congresses have literally drowned the Constitutional Court in issues of current politics.

The opponents of the reforms declare that they know precisely what to do and how to organize Russia's life, but the prescriptions which are offered us are well known. Russia was treated with them for more than 70 years and was treated to death. If we return to that road the results can be summed up as follows: Russia is finished, it can be written off world development, world politics, and economy, and the world balance of forces. [end recording]

After the introductory remarks the Russian Federation president answered numerous questions from journalists. [words indistinct] We will offer you an account of it later.

Rutskoy Should 'Make Up His Mind'

LD1404110093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Correspondent Khudobina report; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Boris Yeltsin met representatives of the Russian press today. The subject of the meeting: economic policy. The political crisis has reached a point at which it may fall off into the abyss, Boris Yeltsin declared, and that is why he has decided to appeal to the people. The president set forth his vision of the problems connected with the referendum of 25 April. This is the right of Russians to express their opinion in the form of a vote by all the people, the president stressed.

Boris Yeltsin said the congress had done everything to conceal the real scale and significance of the choice being made. Yeltsin admitted that during his Presidency certain mistakes had been made but that quite a lot had been achieved too. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin then answered journalists' questions, in particular about his relationship to Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Unfortunately, despite great attempts to somehow settle this question—he is most likely a centrist—but nevertheless he categorically does not agree with the reforms. Well, how can a vice president work if he disagrees with the reforms pursued by the president? Perhaps it is time for him simply to make up his mind? [end recording]

Comments on Constitution, Elections

LD1404112093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The political crisis in Russia is extremely aggravated; it has even reached the point where it could fall into the abyss. This is why the president decided to go to the people, Boris Yeltsin said at a meeting with journalists in the Kremlin today.

At the news conference the president called for people to say yes to all the referendum questions and set out the main provisions of the Constitution which he is proposing to adopt. They envisage the creation of a bicameral parliament, in the exclusive competence of which would be the adoption of laws, the confirmation of the head of state proposed by the president, and the appointment of the heads of the judiciary. The constitution should also enshrine the fundamental rights of citizens, including the right to private property. The draft constitution, Boris Yeltsin said, should be debated first and foremost by the subjects of the Federation, although procedures for its adoption could vary, either through a referendum or perhaps through a new council of the Federation which might take on legislative functions and be formed as a representative body.

Yeltsin also set out his views on the economic reforms. He considers the battle against inflation and the continuation of privatization to be the main tasks. The president said that the question of privatization vouchers for land would also be resolved.

Yeltsin also said that he does not consider it a normal situation when a vice president does not agree with the reforms being implemented by a president. It is time for Aleksandr Vladimirovich to take his stand, Yeltsin said. In response to a question of what the president intended to do should he lose the referendum, Yeltsin replied:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The issue cannot be avoided. You see, I think the early elections will be in the autumn, so there are still three months. There must not be any kind of power vacuum in that time, so the president must work up until the reelection and the elections will tell. [end recording]

Vows 'No Replay' of '1992 Shock'

OW1404112493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia said that the attacks on the reform have since recently concentrated on presidency as an institution in Russia. Talking to journalists in the Kremlin he noted that the recent abolition of presidency in Mordovia was an illustration of what he meant. He has reports that a similar political coup is under preparation in the Republic of Mariy El, former Mari, a republic integrated in Russia.

The legislative branch which, in the president's words, has inherited aggression and anti-popular nature from Bolshevik soviets is trying to rob the people of their hard-won political and economic gains. He said: "I hope the Russian citizens will confirm their confidence in me (in the referendum). I am concerned over the destiny of the reform more than over what happens to me."

Through mass media Yeltsin appealed to the nation: "Make your choice, vote in the referendum for yourself, for your children, for your country. I hope that those of you who have not made up their minds will also attend the referendum in order to shape the future of Russia."

The president said that "there will be no replay of the early 1992 shock." In his words, "the country is entering a second, more moderate and predictable state of economic and social change, a stage which will be backed a strong social policy." He needs the confidence of the people confirmed in the referendum to carry out a sequence of economic and social changes.

The highlights of the economic program, the president said, are support of and guarantees for private property, support of small businesses, and prevention of hyperinflation. Yeltsin called for a straightforward procedure of "starting one's business.... I have worked out a decree banning state bodies from demanding unusual documents from people who start their own businesses." He also said that the executive branch will adopt a package of measures to support the consumers and step up the combat against economic felonies.

Presents Plan for 'Presidential Republic'

LD1404123393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin believes a new constitution of the country should fix its status of a presidential republic and guarantee all internationally-acknowledged human rights. No Congress of People's Deputies is envisaged in Yeltsin's draft of the main law.

Yeltsin refuted claims that a presidential republic means dictatorship. The presidential republic "should strengthen in Russia together with a democratic regime, in the framework of a democratic republic, i.e. developed parliamentarism, local self-governing system, priority of human rights and freedoms, independent and strong juridicary system", he said at a news conference on Wednesday [14 April].

Yeltsin said that his draft of the main law is a "constitution of human rights and freedoms according to international standards". Besides basic human rights, economic freedoms and the private property right is fixed in the draft, he added.

The constitution should be the main law of a "fully-fledged federation where all nations and ethnic groups, all subjects of the federation enjoy considerable independence, sovereignty and rights", the Chamber of the Federation becomes the upper house of the Russian parliament, according to the president.

This should be a "constitution of developed parliamentarism", Yeltsin said. Legislative activities are the exclusive right of the parliament. The upper house will engage in supreme parliamentary control, including the approval of the prime minister and supreme judges nominated by the president. The other chamber—the State Duma (assembly) concentrates on legislative work.

The constitution should ensure stable and efficient state authority. Russia should have a strong executive authority from the top to the bottom. The Federal Government should have more powers, according to the president.

The main law is to secure independent and strong judiciary system. Law and justice must be capable of opposing arbitrariness of authorities, protecting human rights and freedoms, ensuring the supremacy of law. All the three types of courts should be preserved—constitutional, supreme and of arbitration. The lessons of the latest Congress of People's Deputies make it necessary to create a special judiciary body which will be

headed by three chief justices from each court, Yeltsin said, referring to a hasty statement of Constitutional Chief Justice Valeriy Zorkin at the latest congress who denounced the presidential address to the nation without any consideration in court.

The president believes his draft is to be forwarded to the Russian republics for discussion and the Federation Council is to decide how to adopt it. Yeltsin said there are several variants: a direct referendum, a referendum on the basics of the constitution, a constitutional assembly and others.

He reminded that those former Soviet republics who had already adopted a new constitution had no political crises and could implement reform faster.

'Will Resign' if Voted Against

LD1404122593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin will step down if the majority of the population votes against in him at a nationwide referendum on April 25. "The president will resign", Boris Yeltsin told reporters on Wednesday [14 April].

Early elections will be held in autumn of 1993 and not in spring of 1994, he added.

However, the president said that if he wins the referendum he will adopt a number of measures alrady the next day to "neutralise the negative actions of the Supreme Soviet".

"The president will act more resolutely", he added.

Cited on Trade With CIS

LD1404123893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1157 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Russia is resolutely set to switch to world prices in trade with the Commonwealth. "We are currently losing very large sums of money" because of the existing prices, President Boris Yeltsin told reporters on Wednesday [14 April].

However, Yeltsin is against free prices on coal as it may trigger huge price hikes on all goods in Russia. "We shall not agree to that, at least for the time being", the president said.

Yeltsin said Russia will continue to subsidise its regions, but will cease subsidising former Soviet republics. "Why should we give subsidies to republics outside Russia? It turns out that Russia is feeding other republics as it was in the former Soviet Union", he said.

Answers Questions on Japan, Rutskoy

LD1404124393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—During a meeting with journalists in the Kremlin on Wednesday [14 April], President Boris Yeltsin was also asked a question about his forthcoming trip to Japan.

Yeltsin said "such an opportunity is arising now, since the prime minister of Japan unequivocally stated that two issues—economic cooperation and territorial problems—will not be linked directly. As far as a time-frame for the visit is concerned, the president's opinion is that it is possible that the visit will be made at the end of May.

Yeltsin declined to answer a question about a coup plotters' trial that had begun here earlier on Wednesday, on the plea that he does not want and must not "repeat the error made by the procurator-general of Russia".

At the same time Yeltsin noted that he is somewhat disconcerted by the coincidence of the trial with preparations for the referendum and voiced hope that only protocol matters would be decided upon at the trial during this period.

About a CIS summit, scheduled to be held in Minsk on May 16, Yeltsin said the summiteers will virtually discuss only one matter: the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the degree of CIS states's integration, "when it will be practised and who will join the integrated community".

In response to a question as to whether a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze is planned, the president of Russia pointed out the complexity of the situation in Georgia and said that he "would go to such a meeting" if he felt the readiness of the head of that state "to ensure a withdrawal of its troops from Abkhazia, the troops that were brought there additionally".

The journalists inquired about the president's attitude to centrist forces, to the Civil Union, in particular. Yeltsin said that he had already "entered into alliance with the Civil Union" and believes that it is necessary to have a dialogue with centrist forces and that accords with them can be reached.

Touching upon the vice president's stance, Boris Yeltsin pointed out with regret that Aleksandr Rutskoy "categorically disagrees with reforms" and said it was time for the vice-president to take sides definitely, at last.

In view of journalists' persistent attempts to learn whether these words mean "an invitation to resignation", Yeltsin said: "for ethical considerations, I must tell him this not in public but privately. And this is what I shall do".

Yeltsin Addresses Heads of Republics Council Session

LD1404144293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by correspondents Oleg Velichko, Sergey Podyapolskiy, Gennadiy Talalyev for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—Boris Yeltsin today addressed a session of the Council of Heads of the Republics of the Russian Federation. He proposed, above all, an exchange of views on the situation in the republics and the country as a whole on the eve of the referendum. In view of the importance of the upcoming event, he said, I think the council of heads of the republics will adopt a message [obrashcheniye] or other document.

Speaking of the point of the referendum, Yeltsin noted that the citizens of Russia are about to choose between two irreconcilable positions on Russia's development—and not just for the short term, but for the long term. It is Russia's right to do this in the constitutionally established forms of a referendum of the whole people. I believe, said the president, that the citizens of Russia will discern, behind the cunning formulations of the referendum questions thought up by the Congress, what choice they are making and what they are really voting for. I believe that they will pass this test of civic maturity, he said.

Boris Yeltsin said the constitutional crisis had dragged on and had assumed dangerous proportions. He said that the constitution now in force was a maze of contradictions and a source of confrontation between the branches of power. Increasingly it is turning into an explosive mixture, capable of tearing our state to pieces eventually. Because I realized all this, he said, I announced in my address on 20 March that I intended to put the new draft constitution, the one which was drawn up by the Constitutional Commission and whose basic provisions were approved by the Congress, to a referendum, but the Congress resisted this idea. It prefers to make endless amendments to the constitution. Such a practice is spilling over from the federal level to the Republics and regions.

The president of Russia declared that "the latest events in Mordovia have to be taken as a serious warning signal." "I hope that the illegal actions of Mordovia's Supreme Soviet will be given a proper assessment today, just like the rest of this anti-presidential campaign in Russia as a whole," he said.

In Yeltsin's words, executive power is one of the most important pivots of the state's existence. "I consider attempts to disorganize its work irresponsible and dangerous," he said. The adoption of a new Constitution, in the president's opinion, is the only possibility for settling the whole complex of problems of power peacefully and without shake-ups. "That is why, after the refusal of the Congress to put to referendum a Constitutional document that it had itself approved, a composite draft Constitution has now been prepared," Boris Yeltsin announced.

The president of the Russian Federation, earlier today at his news conference dwelt on the basic provisions of the draft of the Basic Law. He said this document would in the next few days be sent to all subjects of the Federation. Boris Yeltsin voiced the hope that it would provide "sufficient food for thought and any amendments" on the part of the subjects of the Federation.

The new draft Constitution will contain everything constructive from the official draft and the other drafts which were recognized in society. It integrates the Declaration of Human Rights and the Federation Treaty. The draft constitution has three sections—human rights and the basics of the state structure of the Russian Federation, the Federation Treaty, and concluding and transitional points.

Describing the draft Basic Law, Boris Yeltsin noted particularly that this is a Constitution of fully fledged developed federalism, in which all the subjects of the Federation possess broad independence, sovereignty, and rights. The Council of the Federation [Sovet Federatsii] is to be the upper chamber of the federal parliament. Legislative activity is the prerogative of parliament —the Federal Assembly. Supreme parliamentary control is therefore concentrated in the upper chamber, including the appointment of a head of government and of top federal judges proposed by the president. The state duma will concentrate its work on legislation.

The president reported that, in accordance with the decree, all the three types of courts, i.e. the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, and the Court of Arbitration, would be retained. A High Court Office is being set up, to be headed by the chairmen of these courts. Noting that the Russian Federation ought to become a presidential republic with a strong parliamentary system, Boris Yeltsin made a special proviso that the president would have a right to dissolve parliament and set fresh elections.

Concluding his opening address, Boris Yeltsin once again stressed the significance of the upcoming referendum for the fate of Russia, and proposed that the members of the Council of Heads of Republics discuss and adopt an appeal to the electorate concerning the nation-wide referendum.

The session was attended by Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister, Sergey Shakhray, deputy prime minister, and Yuriy Skokov, secretary of the Council of Heads of Republics.

Referendum Called 'Turning Point'

LD1404144693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—The Council of Heads of Republics within the Russian Federation at today's

session adopted an appeal to the Russian electors in connection with the referendum. It says:

"The all-Russian referendum announced for 25 April may become a turning point in the development of the Russian Federation. We have advocated and we advocate a search for consensus between the branches of power on the basis of the implementation of the Federative Treaty and a desire to avoid confrontation.

"But to evade the questions set by life is no longer possible. On the basis of today's main task—preservation of stability in the Russian Federation—we call upon all electors to take an active part in the referendum."

It has become known to the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the draft appeal also contained a call to the electors to vote for confidence in the president elected by all the people. But on the proposal of Boris Yeltsin and representatives of the subjects of the Federation, it was excluded from the final wording of the appeal.

All Republics To Hold Referendum

LD1404145093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—"All the Republics have confirmed that they will hold the referendum," Boris Yeltsin declared today at the end of the meeting of the Council of Heads of Republics in the Russian Federation. The Russian president told journalists that during the meeting the Republican leaders explained how preparations for the referendum were going in their areas and outlined the political and economic situation there. We agreed, Boris Yeltsin continued, that I would send them the draft of the new constitution in a few days time so that they can study it.

The session, he continued, examined a draft presidential decree on urgent measures for the development of the Russian Federation as a state. This will also be forwarded to the Republics for their reactions.

"I was worried," the president noted, "that certain Republics might not hold the referendum. After today's meeting, I no longer have these worries. All of them, including Tatarstan and Mordovia, will hold the referendum."

Constitutional Court Judges Interviewed

MK1304130093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 4

[Interviews with Constitutional Court Deputy Chairman Nikolay Vitruk and Constitutional Court Judge Anatoliy Kononov by Konstantin Katanyan; place and date not given: "Subject to Appeal"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] It is generally known what role the Constitutional Court played in the political crisis. Constitutional Court Deputy Chairman N. Vitruk and Constitutional Court Judge A. Kononov point to numerous violations of the law at the Ninth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies and assume that, regardless of the results of the vote on the president's impeachment, the action of the corps of deputies is subject to appeal.

Nikolay Vitruk: Court Did Not Lose Face

[Katanyan] The attitude toward the Constitutional Court is equivocal, and many people believe that the court has lost the right to be considered an independent organ of power. You reserved your opinion over the Constitutional Court's ruling on the Russian president's actions, but the key phrase does not appear either in the official text of the ruling or in your reserved opinion—whether there are grounds for impeaching B. Yeltsin. Why?

[Vitruk] This is a very serious question. I believe that the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies should certainly have formulated the grounds for impeachment. The viewpoint exists that we should not only have ruled on the conformity of the president's actions and decisions with the constitution and indicated all the violations, but also drawn a conclusion on whether these violations constitute sufficient grounds for impeachment.

The court evaded this issue. Moreover, Constitutional Court Chairman V. Zorkin declared that it was not for us to decide this issue, that this was the prerogative of the Congress. Now we will have to study the stenographic record and other Congress documents in order to understand whether or not the Congress decided this issue, whether it formulated a list of grounds for dismissing the president or proceeded at once to the vote.

I recall very emotional speeches by a number of deputies verging on direct insults against the president. This was simply disgraceful.... But these were all emotions, an assessment of Yeltsin's general policy and of the course of reforms. There were speeches which made references to the court ruling, but for the most part the deputies did not strive for juridical purity.

The Congress decree contains a sentence on serious violations committed by the president and noted in the Constitutional Court ruling, but it is necessary to study how this wording appeared. As far as I recall, it was not in the drafts of the decree.

If it turns out that the Congress did not decide the question of grounds for impeachment, then, in my view, that vote should be considered unconstitutional.

[Katanyan] What did you dislike about the Constitutional Court ruling?

[Vitruk] The basic thoughts behind my reserved opinion were as follows:

First, the president's statement on television was his public appeal to the people, in which he assessed the processes and events, set goals, and outlined plans.

Therefore the question of the president's actions and decisions should not have been raised, as the Constitutional Court did. I believe that there was just one action—a public appeal, in other words a political action, which jurists should qualify as an INTENTION.

Law faculty students are taught in their first year that law cannot regulate thoughts, that a person is not answerable for his intentions. Only actions are indictable. If the edict on special rule had come into force or the appeal had been followed by corresponding actions by organs of the executive, then a proper response could have been made, but THERE WAS NEITHER THE EDICT NOR ACTIONS that would have revealed the president's intentions, so intentions remained just intentions.

Moreover, I believe that the president had the right to correct his own actions, depending on the reaction to his appeal—which is what he did in practice. It is no coincidence that political experts say that it is a great art to maintain a pause in politics. The president sustained a pause and elucidated the real picture of the correlation of forces in the top echelons of power.

So we disagreed on the chief thing. My colleagues spoke of actions and decisions, while I considered that there was only an intention, which does not give grounds for a court response.

Second, I noticed a number of violations of procedure. Strictly speaking, the procedure for giving a ruling is not prescribed in the Law on the Constitutional Court. This means it must be specified in our standing orders, but at that moment we did not have standing orders—we adopted them the next day. Thus, the general norm of the law should have operated.

The court summoned S. Filatov, S. Shakhray, and V. Shumeyko. But when Presidential Council Member Yu. Baturin, who at the same time is a scientific associate of the Institute of State and Law, asked "in what capacity have I been invited here?" we were unable to answer that question unequivocally. I still do not know in what capacity these people were questioned—as representatives of the president's interests, as witnesses, or in a different capacity unknown to me.

The same applied to the question of whether we were holding a session or a conference. Judge B. Ebzeyev ironically remarked: "If we are holding a session, why are we not robed?"

A trifle?! The fate of the country's president is being decided, while we seem to be discussing a personal issue over a cup of tea.

[Katanyan] Your opponents cite the following argument. If you had been late, and the president had undertaken real actions, the court could no longer have met.

[Vitruk] This is why I believe that the very first actions (the letter to the president and Zorkin's statement) were justified, but then we were able to work calmly, while observing at least the basic norms of court procedure.

I made another point in my reserved opinion. I disagreed with the final formula, in which the court noted only that part of the president's appeal which does not conform with the constitution. It was necessary to note also that which conforms with the Fundamental Law.

[Katanyan] This is usually the case in Constitutional Court decrees.

[Vitruk] Yes. This was why I perceived a clear accusatory tendency in our ruling.

Incidentally, Western commentators have declared that the Constitutional Court has not lost face precisely because there are reserved opinions. If we had unanimously supported that ruling, jurists would have had every reason to regard our court as a dead duck.

[Katanyan] It is precisely this that worries me. For the thing is not that the court might make a wrong decision. I have the right to consider that this decision was wrong. But I am afraid that the Constitutional Court, as the symbol of justice and the first shoot of the tree whose fruit must be the rule-of-law state, will be trampled underfoot. Therefore it seems to me that the court must now promptly examine other petitions connected with the president's appeal.

[Vitruk] We must certainly study all petitions connected with the decisions of recent congresses and with the president's edicts responding to those decisions. They will all be examined, but we will be able to determine priorities only when the court has studied all these documents.

[Katanyan] Does the court understand that these questions must not be postponed?

[Vitruk] In my opinion, the court does understand this. At least, we have no interest in delaying the examination of these matters.

Anatoliy Kononov: The Court Violated All It Could

[Katanyan] The Constitutional Court examined the president's actions posthaste, in the belief that there were serious threats to the constitutional system. You did not participate in the session and are able to evaluate objectively whether the court should have acted at such a pace and even sat at night.

[Kononov] I do not believe that there was any need for this. I heard the president's appeal on television. In it I caught some phrases and terms that are incorrect from the viewpoint of law—for example, the ill-starred "special rule." Yet this was an appeal and certainly not a normative act. That is, we are talking only of intentions of a political nature, and it is possible to make different interpretations of them. In her reserved opinion Judge T. Morshchakova aptly remarked that it was possible to understand by special rule simply a system of measures to instill order in the sphere of government. Such measures are perfectly constitutional. So I heard nothing

serious in that speech. Nor do I share Zorkin's assessments regarding the threat of a coup d'etat.

[Katanyan] Does it not seem to you that even if Zorkin and the other judges had perceived here a transcending of the constitutional field, this still does not constitute grounds for hasty statements forestalling the court's decision?

[Kononov] This is undoubtedly so. Article 21 of the Law on the Constitutional Court does, indeed, contain Point 6, to which Zorkin referred. It deals with the chairman's right, in cases which brook no delay and which threaten irreparable harm, to draw the attention of state organs and officials to the need to suspend normative acts, directives, and instructions until the court's decision, but no more than that. Here THERE WAS NEITHER THE ACT ITSELF NOR, STILL LESS, A THREAT OF IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. If Zorkin had decided to send a representation to the president, he first should have waited for the edict, which could have been suspended.

So the reference to Article 21 misses the point. In actual fact, there was an assessment of the president's statement, and it was an assessment of a political, not a juridical nature. A Constitutional Court judge is prohibited from making such assessments.

[Katanyan] In my opinion, Article 21 does not presuppose that the court's representation has to be published in the mass media.

[Kononov] Of course. In general, all procedural norms, as many as you like, were violated in this matter.

[Katanyan] Can anybody order the court on this basis to reconsider its decision?

[Kononov] Only the Constitutional Court itself has this right.

[Katanyan] But, the way I understand it, there is little hope of this?

[Kononov] Unfortunately, this is so.

[Katanyan] Then maybe you should also, at least, examine equally promptly, but, naturally, without gross violations of procedure, petitions for a rein on the other side's actions? I mean the decrees of recent congresses.

[Kononov] Even before the Eighth Congress I proposed examining the president's appeal in the Constitutional Court and adopting a decision on the discrepancy between Articles 104 and 109 of the constitution, which lay down the infinite powers of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, and the principle of the separation of powers. This might not be the main cause of the disagreements between executive and legislative organs, but this is the instrument that deputies use to fuel tension. Who, if not the Constitutional Court, should knock this weapon from their hands? But the majority of the judges disagreed with me and decided that they could not discuss the constitutionality of the norms of the constitution. Now we have come to this just the same.

[Katanyan] This contradiction really was recorded in the Constitutional Court's message and legislative proposals, but the Congress ignored the Constitutional Court's initiative.

[Kononov] The trouble was that in the end our principled proposals took the form of an innocent request, but it was necessary to find more vigorous expressions. The court displayed passiveness—which in my view, was one of the causes of the exacerbation of the conflict between the powers.

[Katanyan] Having seen the intractability of the Congress, can the Constitutional Court resolve this question independently?

[Kononov] I believe it can. Article 165-1 of the Russian Federation Constitution enables us to examine any decision of a federal organ.

[Katanyan] Including the Law on Changes to the Constitution?

[Kononov] At least, I take just such a stand.

[Katanyan] But the court does not like to assume responsibility. In giving the ruling on the president's actions, the Constitutional Court avoided answering the question of grounds for removing Yeltsin, although that same Article 165-1 directly points out that this is the prerogative of the Constitutional Court.

[Kononov] I watched the work of the Congress on television. I was most struck by the fact that the judges sat there and kept quiet when the question of impeachment was raised. Yet at the same time deputies were brandishing precisely the Constitutional Court ruling, which contained no grounds for impeachment, but neither Zorkin nor Yu. Rudkin said anything about this from the rostrum.

[Katanyan] Particularly as the Supreme Soviet's question just contained a demand for the court to give a ruling precisely on the existence of grounds to dismiss the president from his post.

[Kononov] The Constitutional Court ruling does not answer this question. This means that this question was not discussed. When Zorkin and Rudkin told the deputies that this question had been passed to the Congress for its decision, they were simply misleading everyone.

[Katanyan] That is, do you believe that the president acted correctly by disputing the very impeachment procedure?

[Kononov] Of course. He was absolutely right.

Russian Communist Party Holds News Conference

Regional Elections 'Left-Wing' Victory

LD1304142593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Sergey Suntsov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Khabarovsk kray branch of the Russian Communist Party is calling on the public to vote on 25 April against the socio-economic policies being pursued by the president and the government, but in Moscow the Russian Communist Party leaders are worried about the consequences of the referendum.

[Suntsov] At their regular news conference on the current situation, the leaders of Russia's Communists reiterated their opposition to the 25 April referendum. According to Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party's Central Executive Commission, there is no justification for simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections. They need to be separated by at least six months, he says. The Russian Communist Party believes that the results of the referendum voting should be settled by a simple majority. It is most concerned, however, by the consequences of the referendum, which could exacerbate the conflict within society.

The Russian Communist Party leaders described recent elections to choose heads of administration in a number of Russia's regions as a victory for left-wing forces. Valentin Kuptsov, deputy chairman of the Central Executive Commission, referred to a statement by the Justice Ministry's press service on the need to investigate whether the restoration of the Russian Communist Party organizations is constitutional or not. The statement was described as another act of pressure and blackmail. The Russian Communist Party believes that the Party's restoration is being conducted in accordance with the Constitutional Court's rulings.

Russian Communist Party leaders were critical of the activities of the Russian Communist Workers Party and Viktor Anpilov. It feels like their activities are provoking social tension.

Against Deputies' Reelection

LD1304174793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Russia, believes that the "political and economic situation in Russia before the referendum is developing from bad to worse." Speaking at a news conference in Moscow today, Gennadiy Zyuganov has urged participants of the forthcoming April 25 referendum to "say only one 'no' to the re-election of the deputies' corps" which, according to him, "will be able to act as a stabilizing body for some time."

After the congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation the "organisational formation of its structures on the whole is being completed in provinces and the strengthening of its cadres is going on," Valentin Kuptsov, first deputy chairman of the party, told the news conference.

Another participant of the news conference, Ivan Rybkin, member of the parliamentary faction "Communists of Russia" and deputy chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, is convinced that with the lapse of time "people with lucid minds will come to power structures" such as Oleg Rumyantsev, Sergey Baburin, Vladimir Isakov and others.

Closing the news conference, Ivan Rybkin read out a congratulatory message of the leadership of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation to all compatriots on the eve of Easter. The message says that communists "together with all the believers, clergy and episcopates" express the hope that a "lamp of faith, hope and love in the name of saving our dearly loved motherland will never fade in our people."

Urges Presidential Elections Only

OW1304185193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy in Charge of the Executive Committee of the Russian Federation's Communist Party Valentin Kuptsov says that regardless of its outcome, the forthcoming referendum is unlikely to bring an end to the power struggle but will heighten the political situation still further. Speaking in Moscow on Tuesday [13 April], he said politics would prevail over the economy for the rest of this year as a destabilizing factor in the country's life.

Despite such gloomy forecasts, communist party leaders are resolved to try to persuade their supporters to vote in favor of early presidential but not parliamentary elections in the forthcoming referendum. "If this gains a majority of votes, we shall seek to get the president to succumb to the nation's will", leader of the Communists of Russia parliamentary faction Ivan Rybkin said. He said the president must be made to know that he would not get away with the policy of strength.

Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov described the parliament as a factor of stability though conceding it made a number of mistakes. He thinks there must be a breathing space of six months between presidential and parliamentary elections to avert a power vacuum. Zyuganov says attempts by the president and his government to hold back to power are doomed to failure and that the vice-president was right in having distanced himself from their policies. He said that Yeltsin was promising something that he was unable to

deliver, but Aleksandr Rutskoy was a pragmatist and his proposals were more realistic.

Zyuganov described Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko as political dreamer. He referred to estimates by the Russian Academy of Sciences saying half of the country's steel plants were at a standstill, with the engineering industry coming next. Zyuganov said there was a 60-65 percent slump in the textile industry, adding that it was absurd to speak of the emerging period of stabilization in a situation such as this.

He accused the government of administering price rises at a time when it had no clear-cut programme, or coherent ideas or any sense of responsibility for what it had done.

Travkin: Chance for Coalition Government 'Passed'

PM1304160393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "Idea of Coalition Government Is Untimely, Democratic Party of Russia Leader Nikolay Travkin Thinks"]

[Text] In the opinion of Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR], we had a chance to form a coalition ahead of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, but we have already passed that turning point. Today a government cannot be formed on that principle, professionals are needed in government. Some structure must get down to business, rather than just politics, and that structure is the government. During a period of political campaigns, be it a referendum or an election, the government could be the continuous [skvoznoy] force that continues to work and ensure stability in the state.

Asked by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI whether the conflict between the executive and legislature stands in the way of his immediate work as the head of an administration, Nikolay Travkin replied that there is one obstacle: "Political wars" are not confined to Moscow, they reach all corners of the country and destabilize the situation. People have no confidence in the future, people are afraid to "invest in the future." Travkin has "no complaints" about Chernomyrdin and his cabinet, and hopes that the head of government will be able to organize a hierarchy of executive power. In Travkin's opinion, the previous government worked by a single rigid pattern, without considering the multiplicity of life, the economic and other features of the regions, and changes in the situation. "The problem is ultimately not whether we choose the wrong model or are unable to schedule everything a step at a time, but the fact that we do not arrive at concrete measures. I would adopt any program if only it could start to be carried out so that mistakes can be rectified and amendments made in a timely manner." There must be well-organized feedback in order for that to occur.

Speaking about the current makeup of the government in connection with the recent reshuffles, Travkin said that Civic Union, of which the DPR is a part, will not propose its candidacies for the vacant slots. "We have already been accused of supposedly being desperate for posts." As for the 25 April referendum, in the opinion of the DPR leader, "any outcome is a result, any result cuts the political knot that those on high have been unable to untie."

It is curious that the press conference given by DPR leader and Russian Federation people's Deputy Nikolay Travkin took place on the outskirts of Moscow, in the Leningradskiy Rayon Soviet building; he remarked at the very beginning that he does not understand the position espoused by Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabov, who the day before gave authorization for the Communist Party (the party not the faction) to hold a press conference in the House of the Soviets on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment, but banned the same kind of DPR press conference.

More Travkin Remarks

PM1404114393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 93 Single Edition p 1

[Report by parliamentary observer Andrey Sharapov: "Nikolay Travkin: I Am Not Eager To Be President. Yet."]

[Text] In politics there are always people whose opinions serve as a barometer of public opinion, irrespective of whether the politician errs or "hits the nail on the head." Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, is incontestably one such figure.

On the evening of 7 April Nikolay Ilyich held a meeting with voters, but before it he spoke to journalists about his vision of today's political situation and the prospects for its development.

At the referendum Travkin will vote for fresh elections of both the president and the corps of deputies. The first two questions that are to be submitted to the referendum have, in Nikolay Ilyich's opinion, no clear juridical basis, and the answer to them is a matter of personal taste.

In connection with rumors about the "Smena-New Policy" faction leaving "Civic Union" Travkin stressed that this does not threaten a split, but he would expel the "Smena" deputies, partly because they are to inclined to express a position that is not centrist but gravitates toward right-wing radicalism. "Civic Union" does not intend to propose candidates for the government, especially since the time for creating a coalition government has been missed.

In the political arena today three blocs present a real force: what might hypothetically be called the communist bloc, including the National Salvation Front, the radical democratic bloc, and also the centrist bloc, which includes "Civic Union."

Personally Travkin does not plan to stand either for deputy, since he is not inclined toward session work, nor president,

although if there proves to be no decent people among the candidates, he will have to review this position.

The government today has a real chance of becoming a stabilizing force in society, of proving a "constant" in the conditions of fresh elections of the executive and representative organs of power. If the slightest positive results appear in the work of the government, no one will change it.

As for the vice president, Rutskoy has real chances of being a serious rival to Yeltsin in the presidential elections, and even failure will prove a useful school for the 48-year-old politician. To a question about Yeltsin's chances, Travkin replied: "I think that he has no chances." If the majority of the population in the country has not lose the ability to think and analyze, further policy based on deceit has no prospects. Three years have shown that this man is good in battle, Nikolay Ilyich remarked, but so far no positive results have emerged in creative activity.

At the same time the leader of the Democratic Party of Russia does not believe in the return of totalitarianism, since there are no objective prerequisites for this in Russia.

"Civic Union" has chances of receiving the "controlling share" of political shares in future elections. Of course, if it has sufficient wisdom and tactical ability to remain a real centrist force in Russian politics.

SCSE Trial

Further on State of Emergency Committee Trial

State Prosecutors Appointed

LD1304131093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—The people appointed to support the state indictment in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case trial which begins tomorrow have no connection with the investigation, were not involved in the case, and have remained independent, Russian Federation Procurator General Valentin Stepankov told the CRIME-PRESS correspondent. He preferred not to name all the state prosecutors yet, noting only that there will be nine of them and they will be headed by Russian Deputy Procurator General Eduard Denisov. Stepankov explained that by law, a procuracy official who takes part in any court trial is independent, even of the procurator general. "If the state prosecutor does not agree with the court verdict ruled then he can submit a protest to the court and I, as procurator general, do not even have the right to recall him," he emphasized.

Trial Ready To Begin

LD1304144493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1409 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Nikolay Semenenko]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—According to CRIME-PRESS information, all participants of a trial of members of the State Emergency Committee are ready to begin a trial scheduled for tomorrow. The hearing of the case will be held in Moscow in the building of the Russian Supreme Court at an open court meeting in a collegium composition (a judge and two people's assessors).

Legal proceedings are instituted against twelve persons—direct organisers and participants of the abortive state coup in August 1991, including Gennadiy Yanayev, Anatoliy Lukyanov, Valentin Pavlov, Vladimir Kryuchkov, Dmitriy Yazov, Oleg Shenin, Oleg Baklanov, Valentin Varennikov, Yuriy Plekhanov, Vyacheslav Generalov, Aleksandr Tizyakov and Vasiliy Starodubtsev. They are all accused of high treason in the form of a conspiracy with the aim of seizing power, and in addition to that Gennadiy Yanayev, Anatoliy Lukyanov, Vladimir Kryuchkov, Dmitriy Yazov, Yuriy Plekhanov and Vyacheslav Generalov are accused of exceeding powers.

The investigation has not yet been completed in respect of four other members of the State Emergency Committee—Ageyev, Achalov, Boldin and Grushko. It was suspended owing to their bad state of health.

Major-General of Justice Anatoliy Ukolov, deputy chairman of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, has been appointed to preside over the trial. A group of nine persons headed by Eduard Denisov, deputy procurator-general of Russia, will support the state accusation, while defense of the accused will be carried out by 19 advocates.

Mikhail Gorbachev, Ruslan Khasbulatov, Aleksandr Rutskoy, Rafik Nishanov and a number of other state and political figures of Russia and the former Soviet Union will be called to witness at the trial of the State Emergency Committee members. It is planned to hear about 120 witnesses at an initial stage of the trial.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is not listed amongst witnesses. However, according to a spokesman for the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, should necessity arise, the court may rule to call the Russian president to give evidence as well.

Supreme Court Official Cited

LD1304215893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Interview with N.A. Petukhov, chairman of the Military Collegium of the Russian Supreme Court, by correspondent Aleksandr Ukhov—live or recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The trial on the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case opens in Russia's Supreme Court tomorrow. Criminal prosecution is being brought against 12 people, the direct organizers of the August 1991 coup. They are Baklanov, Varennikov, Generalov, Kryuchkov, Lukyanov, Pavlov, Plekhanov, Starodubtsev, Tizyakov, Shenin, Yazov, and Yanayev. With regard to Ageyev, Achalov, Boldin, and Grushko the investigation has still not be completed. It was suspended in connection with the poor health of those under investigation.

[Ukhov] Why is it that the military collegium of the Russian Supreme Court has been entrusted with the court examination of the SCSE case?

[Petukhov] The military collegium is part of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. All cases of great public importance are subject to the jurisdiction, according to the law, of the Supreme Court. The members of the military collegium are members of the Supreme Court. That is the first thing. Second, if, according to present legislation, one of the defendants happens to be a military serviceman then the case is subject to the jurisdiction of a military court.

[Ukhov] Have the members of the military collegium expressed any pressure from one force or another during the preparation for the court examination?

[Petukhov] There has been no pressure from the structures of power, legislative or executive, on the court. There have been some petitions from public organizations and from some deputies and citizens on changes in the remission measures, but this can in no way be construed as pressure on the court.

If you look at the question from another side, a book was published by the procurator general. At the moment readings from this book are broadcast on the radio. This may influence not so much the court as the shaping of public opinion before the trial.

I believe, from the point of view of judicial ethics, that such things should not be practiced, but since a book has been published carrying versions of the charges—the defendants have also been appearing in the press and on radio and television and putting their own point of view on this case—the court cannot prevent them from doing this because they have not put their signatures to anything.

[Ukhov] Can the defendants call for the removal of the prosecutors or members of the court ?

[Petukhov] Yes, it is all set out in the law on criminal procedure. Our law is sufficiently democratic. It is the right of all participants in the trial to call for the removal of a state prosecutor from the court.

Western Media Denied Access

MK1404072493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No 8, 13 Apr 93 (signed to press 12 Apr) p 2

[Sergey Parkhomenko commentary under the rubric "Scandal": "Trial Will Be Public. Public Will Be Hand Picked"]

[Text] It is absolutely clear by now that there will be no open trial of the 1991 August revolt organizers. At any rate, it is impossible to describe as "open" the trial that the Military Collegium of the Russian Federation Supreme Court will begin on 14 April.

The Supreme Court press service, according to one of its members, has met "not more than 10 percent of the requests for accreditation." "Not more" is right because in reality the number is maybe at least 10 times fewer. The official motive given to several hundred journalists boils down to the fact that the auditorium selected for the holding of the trial does not have seats enough to accommodate all who want to be present. What prevents putting a camera in the auditorium and a monitor screen in the lobby, no one undertakes to explain.

The foreign press has been totally cut off from the process. The Moscow bureau of Western newspapers, news agencies, and television stations are still continuing to bombard employees of the supreme body of Russian justice with phone calls, but according to an AFP correspondent, they are now being told without beating around the bush: "The decision has been made. It will not be changed no matter what you do. There will be official press releases. Read TASS...."

The association of foreign correspondents accredited in Moscow has sent official notes to the Supreme Court, the Foreign Ministry Information Department, and the president's staff following its countless attempts to secure permanent access to the trial for at least the representatives of the world's biggest news agencies. No intelligible answer has been given. "I have been working in Moscow permanently since the start of glasnost, since 1986, but I have never met with such a sweeping taboo for all Western journalists," remarks Sami Amara, an activist of the association and a correspondent for Radio Monte Carlo and a whole group of Arab newspapers.

It is not hard to take stock of the battle waged for many months and lost by Moscow journalists to the judicial bureaucrats.

First, newspaper reports to be filed in the courtroom, and TV reports to be taped there will be filed and taped anyway. The rich experience of parliamentary news coverage in the Soviet and post-Soviet epochs proves that attempts to keep the press away using cordons and democratically passed decisions on the closed nature of sittings only make journalists switch over from open sources of information to indirect sources. This increases the danger of distorted reporting, but does not make it less complete for all that.

Second, having denied the journalists access to information "gratis"—which goes with accreditation—the Russian Federation Supreme Court officials almost openly invite them to buy this information from them. This market, which mostly uses hard currency and trades in pirated videos, underground audio tapes, and photographs, will inevitably prosper during the entire three or four months the trial is forecasted to last, precisely the way it prospered for two years, reliably providing additional incomes to participants in the investigations into the August events.

Third and last, having opted for a restrictive policy, the Supreme Court has in fact of its own free will passed the right to distribute information about the trial into the hands of the defendants and their lawyers. Correspondingly, both selection and interpretation of this information will be done by the same side. "We have prepared certain tactics for our coming interaction with the mass media," SEGODNYA correspondent Yuriy Ivanov was told by the lawyer of Vladimir Kryuchkov, former Soviet KGB chief. "We will perhaps embark on the road of press conferences; we will be inviting personally those journalists whom we would consider necessary to have contact with...."

Court Chairman Details Charges

LD1404082493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The chairman of the Military Collegium of the Russian Supreme Court, Major-General Anatoliy Ukolov, who chairs the proceedings, said in the introductory speech that the State Emergency Committee members are accused under Article 64, Item A, of the Russian Federation Criminal Code (treason in the form of a coup to seize power), Gennadiy Yanayev and Anatoliy Lukyanov, in addition, under Article 171, Part II, (exceeding their power), Gennadiy Yanayev also under Article 175 of the Russian Criminal Code (forged authority), Vladimir Kryuchkov, Dmitriy Yazov, Yuriy Plekhanov and Vyacheslav Generalov also under Article 260, Item B, of the Russian Criminal Code (neglect of their duties under mitigating circumstances).

All state prosecutors. defendants and defence lawyers as well as victims, including relatives of those killed during the coup, arrived at the court.

Supporters Picket Supreme Court

LD1404103393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The accused in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case arrived in court accompanied by several hundred pickets from the Working Russia movement. The procession was a rather stormy one. Here is a report from our correspondent Ilya Kopelevich.

[Kopelevich] The militia men that stopped the column 50 meters from the court entrance were called invaders by the pickets, and Victor Ampilov, who was heading the procession, announced that the actions of the law enforcement staff are an insult to human dignity. But the supporters of Working Russia themselves behaved rather unceremoniously. To say nothing of the insulting slogans and yells that have already become customary, the gathered crowd showed an extremely aggressive attidude towards representatives of the press. One female foreign correspondent who made an attempt to talk with Vladimir Kryuchkov was almost beaten up. Such actions were in no way stopped by the rally leaders. Quite the opposite, the accused, who were proclaimed heroes by the pickets, were surrounded by a ring of guards, so that correspondents should not get in the way. But if the SCSE members' only aim was to get to the courtroom quitely and without fuss, should they have arrived with this kind of escort?

Defendants Reject Judges, Court

LD1404102893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy at the Russian Federation Supreme Court in Moscow—live]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Court hearing of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case opened today. Admittedly, it began slightly late. Various organizational questions were being resolved. All the participants in the trial were in court. The judges were there in their robes. The seating arrangements for the defendants were changed slightly with the permission of the court. The defendants did not sit in the places originally allocated for them, but sat in the hall alongside their lawyers. They gave the impression of being people who are accustomed to being in charge. Their relatives turned up for the hearing. They were animated by the big occasion. Some of them were clutching bouquets of roses, but the hearing began to the muffled accompaniment of chanting on the street outside. Representatives of the Moscow Workers' Movement have turned up at the court building. Their chants are audible in the court. They have not, however, really hampered the trial proceedings.

First, the defendants were asked to identify themselves, in accordance with established procedures. The composition of the court was announced. The case is being heard by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court. General Ukolov is chairing the proceedings. His assessors are General Zaytsev and General Sokolov. There are also back-up assessors.

As many had expected, the defendants and their lawyers announced that they rejected not just the judges but the entire court as a whole, and the entire Supreme Court of Russia. Their reasons were as follows: First, they argued, some judges are subordinate to the defense minister who will testify as a witness at this trial since he was linked to the events which took place in August 1991 and, therefore, according to the defendants, has an interest in the

outcome of the case. Furthermore, as far back as 19 August 1991 Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree describing the defendants as being guilty of a number of crimes. Therefore, according to the defendants and their lawyers, this was bound to have had some influence on the members of the Court and all the participants in the trial. Furthermore, they also consider that the defendants' actions took place at a time when the USSR was still in existence. Therefore, a Russian court cannot hear this case. It can only be heard by an international court of the 15 former republics and the states which have taken the place of the former Union republics must conclude some kind of agreement on this.

Some lawyers expressed the view that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet could appoint a special court. The lawyers also said that some of the events had taken place on the territory of Ukraine, for example, referring to the events at Foros. Other lawyers demanded that the entire judicial system had to be overhauled. They wanted the introduction of a jury system since this was envisaged in the outline plan for the reorganization of Russia's judicial system.

The first session lasted two hours. Having heard all the objections to the court advanced by the defendants and their lawyers, the court withdrew for consultations which, it is thought, will last at least three hours. Some time after 1500 [1100 GMT] or possibly later still, the court hearing will resume. When it does, we will continue our reports from here, from our correspondent's post at the Russian Supreme Court.

Defense Attorneys Cited

OW1404104393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [14 April], the leaders of the 1991 coup rejected the judges of the Military Collegium, and the Supreme Court as a whole.

Abdulla Khamzayev, the lawyer of the Soviet Union's former Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev, stated that he did not doubt the moral standards and discretion of the judges. He noted, however, that he doubted the possibility of entrusting the case to the Supreme Court in general. He explained his statement by the fact that the judges of the Military Collegium are career officers directly subordinated to the Defense Ministry.

He also said that the events in August 1991 go beyond the limits of the interests of Russia alone, and have to do with the political interests of all of the CIS states. He emphasized that Russia was not the successor of the former Soviet Union. Neither is the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation the successor of the Supreme Court of the former USSR, he said. Given this, the case should be considered by a special inter-state court, not by the Russian Federation's Supreme Court, or the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation should be granted corresponding powers by the former Soviet republics, said Khamzayev.

The appeal challenging the judges of the Military Collegium and of the whole of the Supreme Court was supported by all the defendants and their lawyers.

Yuriy Reznik, the lawyer of Yuriy Plekhanov, said that the trial of the 12 top officials of the former Soviet Union by three judges violated the defendants' human rights and went against the Constitution of the Russian Federation. He referred to the constitutional provision which says that criminal cases must be considered by jurors and demanded that this particular case should be sent to the chairman of the Supreme Court for additional scrutiny and that a new court be shaped involving jurors.

Anatoliy Lukyanov's lawyer Genrikh Padva stated that the question "Who can judge the 12 supreme officials of the former Soviet Union?" must be answered at an inter-state level. In his opinion, a Russian court has no right to judge people for the deeds done outside the Russian Federation. So he proposed three options: to sign a corresponding inter-state agreement, to set up a joint jury by the former Soviet republics, or to ensure that the supreme courts of the CIS countries delegate corresponding powers to the Russian Supreme Court.

At the moment, the court is considering the defendants' appeal. The court proceedings will be resumed at about 15:00 [1100 GMT].

Court Rejects Trial by Jury Request

LD1404142993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1228 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina and KRIM-PRESS correspondent Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—The military collegiate of the Russian Federation Supreme Court rejected submissions by the defendants in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case and their lawyers which challenged the Court's composition. Chairman Anatoliy Ukolov announced the corresponding conclusion. It stated that the military collegiate does not see "any legal basis" for meeting these submissions. "The processing of criminal cases, irrespective of the location where the crime was committed, takes place on the territory of the Russian Federation in accordance with Russia's criminal procedures legislation," the released document noted. Anatoliy Ukolov also stressed that the Russian Federation Supreme Court is the legitimate successor of the USSR Supreme Court. So the submission by the accused and their lawyers that a special interstate court or court with jury be set up to consider the SCSE case was also rejected.

As regards the statements by the accused about the judges, as military men, being unable to be impartial since Russia's defense minister would be addressing the

sittings as an "interested witness," the military collegiate's conclusion notes that the defense minister "is not the immediate superior" of judges who are members of the military, and so the submissions presented are no grounds for challenging the court.

Court Adjourns Until 15 Apr

LD1404145893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1414 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina and KRIM-PRESS correspondent Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—The court deferred until tomorrow its examination of the defense argument that the court has no authority to hear the case. During the defense submission on this point, Aleksandr Tizyakov, one of the defendants, left the courtroom after feeling unwell. After this incident, the lawyers for the accused asked the court to amend the regulations for the trial, specifically those related to the health of the defendants. Anatoliy Ukolov, who is chairing the proceedings, announced an adjournment until 1000 hours [0600 GMT] tomorrow.

Stepankov's Book Criticized

LD1404143793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1414 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By KRIM-PRESS]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The defendants and their lawyers rejected all state prosecutors in the trial on the case of the State Emergency Committee. They noted that they bear no personal grudge but reject the entire prosecutor corps of Russia headed by Prosecutor-General Valentin Stepankov because of gross violation of criminal proceedings during the preliminary investigation.

Gennadiy Yanayev, specifically, blamed the prosecutor-general for the publication of the book "The Kremlin Conspiracy: Version of the Investigation". In that book, he described members of the State Emergency Committee as being guilty even before the outcome of the trial. Yanayev said that if any of the defendants or all of them are aquitted, Stepankov will have to face lawsuits for "lies and slunder", which makes him personally interested in the outcome of the trial.

As regards state prosecutors appointed for the trial, Yanayev believes that, being subordinated to Stepankov, they cannot be disinterested and independent, as the Russian penal code requires.

Defendant Anatoliy Lukyanov said that he had already brought a lawsuit against Valentin Stepankov for distorting in his book the facts related personally to Lukyanov.

Defendant Valentin Pavlov blamed Stepankov for sanctioning shooting in Matrosskaya Tishina (Sailor's Quiet) prison with a hidden camera, as a result of which photographs appeared in the press. He complained to court and demanded that criminal proceedings be instituted on this fact against Stepankov and investigator Lisov.

In its turn, state prosecution demanded that the court reject the defendants' complaints, referring to independence of prosecutors in any trial from anyone, including the prosecutor-general, as is stipulated by law.

More on Stepankov Book

MK1404132093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Oleg Rubnikovich report under the rubric "Trial": "Putschists Against 'Kremlin Plot' Authors. Ex-Premier Insists He Is No Alcoholic"]

[Text] Oleg Baklanov and Valentin Pavlov have lodged an appeal against General Prosecutor V. Stepankov, his deputy Ye. Lisov, the OGONEK publishers, the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, and Radio Rossiya, which started daily readings of chapters from the book "The Kremlin Plot" [Kremlevskiy Zagovor].

The plaintiffs voice their resentment at the fact that the work, which has become a bestseller, was released before the investigation by court of the circumstances of the August 1991 events, and before sentence has been passed in the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. Besides, as Baklanov and Pavlov maintain, the book gives information divorced from reality and damaging to their honor and dignity.

Mr. Baklanov, for example, feels much hurt by the expression "sleuth-hounded" in the phrase "he was sleuth-hounded by a KGB officer." Ex-Premier V. Pavlov feels he has sustained "damage in the eyes" of the entire world community" [quotation marks as published] by the expression "... the prime minister's further participation in the plot was prevented by a heavy drinking bout...." Mr. Pavlov maintains that the general prosecutor and his deputy have at their disposal evidence from witnesses who state that he is not an alcoholic.

The putschists ask the court to oblige the authors to recant information that is out keeping with reality and defamatory to them.

Referendum Issues

Travkin's Party Reveals Stance on Referendum Questions

MK1404090093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Apr 93 p 10

[Semen Fayerman report under "Democratic Party News Conference" rubric: "DPR Ready To Support Strong Presidential Power"]

[Text] The board of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR], which is known as "Travkin's party," has adopted a decision that every member of this organization must decide independently how to answer the referendum questions on confidence in Boris Yeltsin and on approval for his socioeconomic policy. As regards early elections of the president and the people's deputies, the DPR leadership urges the party's members to answer "yes" to both questions. Ilya Roytman, deputy chairman of the DPR Board, reported this at a news conference yesterday.

At a meeting with journalists Ilya Roytman declared that, given the present political and economic situation in the country, the DPR is ready to support the presidential form of rule. According to Roytman, the uncertainty of the party's leading organs with regard to the first two questions stems from the fact that he has left the public committee in support of the president, which was set up on the eve of the referendum, and different views on the problem of confidence in Boris Yeltsin have come to light on the board. In this connection DPR members are recommended to vote on the first two questions on the basis of their own decisions, but as for the questions on early elections, the DPR agrees with the general position of Civic Union and calls for a "yes" answer.

Observers believe that the reason for such liberalism in one of Russia's most highly structured parties is most likely that this organization's leaders fear a split. It has become known that most DPR primary organizations, which exist in practically all parts of the country, are voicing disappointment in Boris Yeltsin, while Nikolay Travkin believes that there is no point at all in answering "stupid questions" (meaning the first two).

Explaining his departure from the committee in support of the president, Ilya Roytman reported that it is being "pressured by Democratic Russia functionaries, whose narrow party-based approaches play a negative role." He said that "the squeezing out of 'others,' which has begun in the committee, attests to the desire of the political grouping to appear in the role of a presidential party."

Conference of Local Soviet Deputies Issues Appeals

On 'Attempts To Dissolve' Soviets

PM1304151993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

["Appeal to the Peoples of the Russian Federation" from the participants in the All-Russian Conference of Local Soviet People's Deputies, dated 9 April 1993]

[Text] We people's deputies, representing almost 1,000 rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets in Russia, have learned with great alarm and concern about the attempt to establish an unconstitutional regime of personal power in the country through the abolition of soviets of people's deputies. The current representative organs of power have become an impediment to those who, under the slogans of democracy and reform, are engaged in satisfying their own egotistical interests. The attempts to dissolve the soviets are a threat to the young Russian democracy and are an infringement on the freedom, rights, and security of Russian citizens.

People's deputies are concerned about the fact that reform is not achieving its goals, and that the methods of its implementation have been wrong and have brought about the economic and spiritual impoverishment of the people. The production slump has reached catastrophic levels. People's deputies advocate the economic and political reform of Russian society, but not to the detriment of the prosperity of most Russian citizens, and not at the expense of the destruction of Russian statehood.

An analysis of the reforms was provided at the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, and specific avenues for further implementing them were formulated. But, instead of working constructively with the soviets, presidential structures have launched a propaganda campaign against the representative organs of power and people's deputies, are whipping up an atmosphere of nervousness, and are calling increasingly frequently and persistently for the abolition of soviets of people's deputies. The foundations of Russian statehood and democracy are thereby being destroyed.

What is the answer? The conference participants believe that there is no alternative to joint and coordinated work. We call on all the country's people's deputies, local representative and executive organs of power, political parties, and other social associations to display good sense and restraint, and not to give extremist forces of various stripes the opportunity to involve them in a destructive power struggle. We need to pool the efforts of all branches of unified state power to engage in everyday creative work and prevent any further production slump, unemployment growth, or deterioration in people's lives. The peoples of Russia have to get their identity back and be given an opportunity to revive their spirituality.

We call on citizens in multinational Russia to use the forthcoming referendum to clearly express their attitude to the current socioeconomic policy, and demand that it be amended and fundamentally renewed.

Esteemed fellow countrymen! The referendum will come and go, but Russia will remain. It is important to take a courageous step and free it from a reform policy which is not in the interests of most citizens of Russia. Make your choice as your conscience dictates. Society needs calm, creative work, and wise and farsighted politicians. Let us do our patriotic duty and return to the Russian Federation the greatness which its peoples undoubtedly deserve!

[Signed] Participants in the All-Russian Conference of Local Soviet People's Deputies

[Dated] 9 April 1993, Moscow

On Armed Forces Referendum Participation

PM1304152793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

["Appeal to Servicemen and Staffers of Russian Federation Internal Affairs, Security, and Foreign Intelligence Organs" from the participants in the All-Russian Conference of Local Soviet People's Deputies, dated 9 April 1993]

[Text] The all-Russian referendum on issues of fundamental importance for the future destiny of the Russian Federation will be held 25 April 1993.

The preservation of Russian statehood and of Russia's territorial integrity will largely depend on the position adopted by Russian Armed Forces servicemen and staffers of internal affairs organs, Security Ministry organs, and organs of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service.

We call on you at this crucial juncture to be guided solely by the Russian Federation Constitution, Russian Federation laws, and the oath of loyalty you have taken to Russia and its people. We hope that you will be able to freely express your personal will, purely as your conscience dictates and on the basis of your convictions. It is important that you should not be hostage to the struggle between the various sociopolitical forces which are attempting to derive an advantage from the referendum results and make political capital out of them. It is impermissible to involve the Army in political confrontation or to divide the Army on political grounds.

Organs of state power—above all, local soviets and people's deputies at all levels—must ensure during the preparations for and holding of the referendum that servicemen can freely express their will at their place of military service.

[Signed] Participants in the All-Russian Conference of Local Soviet People's Deputies

[Dated] 9 April 1993, Moscow

Yeltsin To Meet Public Committee for Referendum

LD1404112293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed to meet on April 15 with leaders of the public committee for the referendum. This was announced at a news conference of the committeee on Wednesday [14 April]. The committee including some 90 regional organisations has rallied Russian citizens who want the reforms to be irreversible. According to statements by participants in a news conference on Wednesday, these organisations expect the referendum to resolve the main political problem of the new Russian history—the reelection of the deputies and convocation of a constituent assembly. The participants in the news conference said that at a meeting on Thursday, the president will be told about the position of the democratic forces in the runup to the referendum.

The news conference was told that the public committee for the referendum is anxious over the stance assumed by some presidential representatives in the provinces. With a reference to the information received from the provinces, members of the committee said that sabotage of the referendum takes place on the sly in many Russian districts, including central regions, and the Far East, with the connivance of heads of the administrations. There are difficulties about forming district commissions for the referendum.

People's Deputy Marina Saliy told reporters that no matter what the results of the people's voting may be, the political situation in Russia will hardly change. "In any case, no matter what the results, the president's positions will strengthen", she said. "This is the main thing for the democratic forces. They are for the preservation of presidency in Russia. President could guarantee the convocation of a constituent assembly".

Preparation for Referendum Continues as Planned

LD1404105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The Central Commission for the Russian Referendum will only count ballots on April 25. "We shall not make any political assessments", Vasily Kazakov, chairman of the commission, told a news conference in the Russian Government house on Wednesday [14 April].

Kazakov told reporters about the preparation for the referendum. He said financial difficulties are acutely felt in northern territories. In those territories with sparse population, helicopters and other means of transportation are usually used to collect votes. He said that groups of people numbering up to 20 and working in hard-of-access districts can radio the results of the voting.

The expenditures for the referendum are expected to make up 20.5 billion roubles. 96 per cent of the sum will be spent on the work of district commissions. Kazakov confirmed that the Russian Ministry of Finance transferred the needed funds to Russian regions on April 7.

The chairman of the Central Commission said that ballots have already been printed in some regions. All Russian citizens not younger than 18, except for those kept in places of detension and those found incapable by the court, can participate in the voting.

Kazakov said that on Monday the presidium of the Russian parliament passed a decision on the voting by

Russian citizens doing the military service beyond the limits of the Russian Federation. They will not participate in the referendum. Servicemen in Russia can participate in the referendum no matter where they have been called up to the Army.

The Central Commission has foreseen its actions in the event of infringements of law during the preparation and holding of the referendum. Kazakov said a special group has been formed at the Russian public prosecutor's office to observe the legality of canvassing by various parties and public groups before the referendum. He warned that the Russian criminal code includes an article envisaging the depriviation of freedom for up to three years for the violation of the rules of canvassing. For instance, it is prohibited to draw on state funds for canvassing before the referendum. The canvassing cannot be done by a state official on behalf of state bodies.

Yeltsin's 'American-Style' Campaign Gaining Support

MK1304121093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Apr 93 p

[Veronika Kutsyllo report: "Authorities on the Eve of the Referendum. Presidential Campaign Starts To Look Like an Election Campaign"]

[Text] There are less than two weeks to go before the voting takes place on 25 April. Of course, changing the balance of political views held by the voters is a fairly difficult task within so short a time. The goings-on of the last weekend and the first day of this week, however, confirm suggestions expressed by many observers that the very eve of the referendum will see political activity step up dramatically. Furthermore, the campaign launched by Boris Yeltsin as early as last week in Bratsk has been more and more distinguished by propaganda undertones.

According to observers, in the current situation the president has more chances to win extra votes than the representative branch. Boris Yeltsin's "American-style" propaganda techniques—continuous show of confidence in the positive outcome of the referendum, a meeting with war and labor veterans on 10 April, his promise to take to task those who raised gasoline prices, yesterday's meetings with Moscow students, an edict raising students' stipends, and so forth—may naturally jar on some part of the Russian intelligentsia, but are not enough to make the president's staunch supporters say "no" to his policies.

On the other hand, Boris Yeltsin's straightforward actions may quite possibly influence a fairly large segment of the population who judge politicians by their decisions prompted by expediency. Although Ruslan Khasbulatov, in turn, will surely try to outperform the president in populism, and within the next week parliament, to all appearances, will pass a decree on yet another set of "benefits" for the people, the situation of the legislative branch appears more difficult.

From the point of view of mass psychology, the term "corps of deputies" cannot appeal to the voters' emotions owing to its depersonification. The sole identification possible—with Ruslan Khasbulatov—is unlikely to suit the Supreme Soviet itself. Being aware of this, the speaker will not resort to "going out to meet the people," but will try to employ different methods—like a decree on television passed yesterday by the Supreme Soviet Presidium. However, the very name of the document—"On measures to implement the congress decree 'On measures to...'" proves that the actual subordination of television to the legislative branch is very unlikely.

At the same time, despite the image of a self-confident president, Boris Yeltsin, in observers' view, is assessing the "voting capacity" of the population in a fairly realistic way and is preparing exit routes well in advance which in actual fact have nothing to do with retreat. Let us just recall Yeltsin's recent pronouncement that if he wins, "a presidential regime" will be established in Russia until the next elections; and should he lose, he will stay on as president until new elections are called.

It is unclear, however, whether Aleksandr Rutskoy stays in this event with the president; on Saturday, the vice president said that his contradictions with Yeltsin were irreconcilable, but then backed down on those words.

Acknowledging the possibility that the referendum may have an unwelcome outcome for him, the president effectively launched an election campaign last week. Boris Yeltsin said that on the eve of the referendum he would make public the key provisions of his new draft Constitution, with which he will fight for reelection. It is expected that during his meeting with the press tomorrow Yeltsin will also unveil his economic program. In addition to his trip to the Kuzbass today the president plans to visit Minsk to attend a meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State, and to spend Sunday attending Easter celebrations in Vladimir, which apparently is to help the president to enlist the support of believers.

Presidential Aide Confident Yeltsin Will Win Referendum

LD1304132893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Leonid Filatov [name as received], head of the president's administration, addressed journalists on Tuesday [13 April], saying he was confident that Boris Yeltsin's policies would win support in the referendum.

According to Filatov, the position of the president's team on the referendum is to say "yes" to the first, second and the fourth questions put on ballot papers and answer "no" to the third question.

"The fact that the president wants to say "yes" to all four questions of the referendum shows his moral attitude to

it," Filatov said. He is prepared to hold early elections, but it is clear to everyone that by expressing confidence in Yeltsin and letting him continue the reforms, it is a paradox to demand his reelection," Filatov said.

Filatov said he was confident that the Constitutional Court would change the procedure of counting votes on the first two questions of the referendum. He emphasised that, according to leading lawyers, these questions are unconstitutional and should be resolved by a simple majority.

Filatov is concerned about personal attacks on the president and the government made by the opposition forces. "They are pleased neither with the economic reforms themselves, nor with those who are implementing them," Filatov said. "The people should be aware of the fact that it is not the pace and correction of the reforms which are at issue, but another, principally different reform. I think the people realised that freedom and rights won by the present day are in jeopardy" Filatov added.

"I am afraid of taking ill-considered and provocative steps," Filatov said, saying that the situation was especially tense over the past week. He said that on Monday, the presidential press centre denied accusations alleging that presidential structures had levied a tax on enterprises, banks and entrepreneurial structures. He cited another example of varying fuel prices in the sowing period.

Describing the situation in Russia's regions, Filatov said that according to public opinion polls, the number of people "not going to the polls" and "undecided" is becoming less. Filatov expressed the regret that the questions put to the referendum do not make it possible to attain the main goal—the adoption of a new constitution.

Yeltsin Directive on New Referendum Commission

PM1304153593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Directive No. 220 issued by President Boris Yeltsin dated 8 April, published under the "Referendum 25 April" rubric: "On Measures To Ensure the All-Russian Referendum 25 April 1993"]

[Text] In accordance with the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies 29 March 1993 Decree "On the 25 April 1993 All-Russian Referendum, the Procedure for Recording Its Results, and the Mechanism for Implementing the Referendum Outcome" and with a view to coordinating the activity of executive bodies to provide material and financial backup for the referendum:

1. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers—the Government—shall set up within a week, under the leadership of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers—Government—chairman, a government commission to prepare and hold the all-Russia referendum on 25 April 1993. The commission shall comprise the people who were members of the government commission set up by the Russian Federation president's of 2 February 1993 Directive No. 70.

2. Russian Federation Presidential Directive No. 70 "On Measures to Ensure the All-Russian Referendum 11 April 1993" shall be deemed invalid.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.

[Dated] 8 April 1993

Economic Issues

Gerashchenko: Parliament Not To Blame for Deficit

LD1304180993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Geraschenko said that the unmonitored export of natural resources, and also the fact that a large part of the hard currency proceeds remains in foreign bank accounts, as main causes for the state budget deficit. In this connection, Geraschenko called Yeltsin's pronouncements that the Supreme Soviet is to blame for the increased federal budget expenditures inappropriate.

Shumeyko Says Economy Now in 'Stabilization Phase'

PM1304154593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 1

[I. Savvateyeva report: "Production Slump Ended Six Months Ago, V. Shumeyko Claimed At Briefing Yesterday"]

[Text] "Desite everything, the government is managing to find common ground with the Central Bank on the main issues. The president's reaction to Boris Fedorov's statements about the Central Bank's unsatisfactory work was... normal. All the uncertainty will disappear after the 25th.

"The production slump ended six months ago. From September through March the level of industrial production has been virtually stable. The economic breakdown phase is over. The stabilization phase has begun. The continuing arguments about a 'catastrophic slump' are just a bluff for political purposes.

"The most important task today continues to be inflation.

"We hope to be able to talk about an economic upturn by the end of the year. But for this to happen it is extremely important to have political stability. Our political opponents are also well aware that if the government is allowed to work calmly changes which will be impossible to disregard will very soon be inevitable."

Government Allocates 1 Trillion Rubles to Agriculture

LD1304223393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Council of Ministers has passed a resolution on taking additional measures to develop agriculture. According to the document, more than 1 trillion rubles [R] are to be allocated to the agricultural sector.

Nikolay Illarionov, first deputy head of the working center for economic reforms attached to the government, gave this information to an INTERFAX correspondent. Illarionov pointed out to the level of industrial output which remained stable for the past seven months and a 12-14 percent reduction of the money supply. In Illarionov's opinion, such positive results were achieved because of effective pressure which the Council of Ministers put on the Central Bank to prevent it from issuing further credits to the government itself as well as to commercial banks and the states within the ruble zone. He reported that various ministries, committees, and the so-called industrial lobbyists are constantly vying for additional allowances, grants, and credits from the government. Should the Council of Ministers succumb to this pressure and try to meet these various requests, it will only result in a fresh spiral of inflation.

Planned Measures To Overcome Agricultural Crisis

LD1304122293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—As much as 400 billion roubles will be allocated from the Russian budget this year to revive the Russian countryside, promote soil amelioration and enhance soil fertility. This is envisaged by the Russian Government's decision "on additional measures to stabilise agro-industrial production in 1993". They are intended to help overcome the crisis in Russian agriculture, to concentrate the main financial and material resources in the most important areas.

It is planned to allocate resources primarily to enterprises and husbandries that conclude contracts on the delivery of goods to federal and regional reserves, and which yield the highest profits from the invested money. Fifty per cent of the spendings on electric and thermal power, used for growing vegetables in hothouses, will be covered from the budget as of January 1st. Subsidies will be granted for the production of flax and hemp, for breeding pedigree cattle and poultry.

Not less than 85 per cent of the required gasoline, diesel fuel and lubricants will be allocated to agriculture from federal state reserves during the current spring agricultural campaign and the 1993 harvesting period. All the ministries and agencies concerned are called upon to ensure the timely delivery of machinery, equipment and spare parts to agriculture. The Defence Ministry was ordered to assign to agriculture for four months 12,000 motor vehicles and the necessary number of recruits to harvest crops.

A draft programme is being drawn up to supply with foodstuffs the northern areas of Russia, the Urals and Siberia. It is planned to use the profits, received from the export of the goods they produce, to develop agricultural production in southern Russia on the basis of new technologies and materials received from abroad.

The government will also discuss the question of granting a long-term easy investment credit of 200 billion roubles, at 10 per cent annual interest, to build and reconstruct the most important agricultural installations.

Economic Slump Predicted for First Half of 1993

PM1304113293 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Economic Slump Continues"]

[Text] The slump in Russian industry, which in January-March amounted to 20 percent, will continue at the same rate for the whole of the first six months of the year, and will amount to 19.5 percent by comparison with the same period last year.

This forecast is made by the "Makroekon-Link" research center, which unites leading experts of the State Committee for Statistics and the Russian Ministry of Economics. In the experts' opinion, the trend for the structure of the economy to deteriorate under the influence of the increasing weight of fuel and raw material sectors continues. At the same time the biggest slump in the results of the first six months will occur in light industry and nonferrous metallurgy (37 and 28 percent respectively), the construction materials industry (27 percent), the chemical and petrochemical industries (22 percent), and ferrous metallurgy (13 percent). The monthly inflate rate in the first six months will vary between 27 and 33 percent (that is to say, at the level of January-March).

Supreme Soviet

Vice President Rutskoy Meets With Rural Deputies

Says Referendum Not Solution

OW1304134593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy does not believe the forthcoming referendum on April 25 will be able to resolve the country's constitutional crisis because of a continued dyarchy. Speaking at a meeting of rural deputies in Moscow on Tuesday [13 April], Rutskoy said that Russia's supreme legislature, the People's Congress, had made a mistake by denying the electorate the right to recall deputies. It is from this angle that the constituents must vote on the fourth question of the ballot paper, he said. Rutskoy

believes that each citizen must assess the performance by his own deputy while casting a vote of confidence in the Congress as a whole.

Rutskoy denied allegations of "betraying the President." "All of my work before and after the last Congress has been in compliance with election promises while standing as candidate for Parliament and Vice-Presidency," he said.

Rutskoy believes the aim of those accusations is to get his resignation. "I could have stepped down, he said, but the thought that someone like Burbulis, Starovoytova or Volkogonov might replace me gives me creeps." "I won't resign and as things are now, it is still unclear who will outlive whom," the Vice President said.

The Russian official pointed out that Vice-President had no clearly-defined authority and was running errands for the President.

Criticizes Government Action

LD1304144993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"Agriculture has driven into a state, when it will take six or eight years to reach the 1990 indices," Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy told a meeting of agrarian deputies today at the House of Soviets.

The vice-president criticized government actions in the agrarian sphere. In his words, an essentially new program to reform the agro-industrial complex was worked out half a year ago, but "it has not been approved". He said the priority area of the program is improved processing and storage of harvest and its absolute preservation.

He stressed he is not satisfied with the progress of this year's sawing campaign. "This is done deliberately to drive Russia into begging."

Rutskoy said Democrats are eager to see him resign. "I would have done it long ago and with great pleasure, but when I think the post of vice-president will be taken by Burbulis, Starovoytova, Volkogonov or someone else, I cannot sleep at night".

In his opinion, the congress made a mistake by agreeing to the wording of the fourth referendum question—on early parliamentary elections. He said they should give electors the right to recall only those deputies they do not like.

"The referendum is not a political but a moral action", said Rutskoy.

Nation 'Kept Alive by Humanitarian Aid'

OW1304164893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The agro-industrial complex of Russia "has been reduced to such a state that six to eight years will elapse before the 1990 indices are achieved," Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy said at a meeting with the complex managers in Moscow April 13.

In his view, "Russia has been brought to such a condition that it is kept alive by humanitarian aid and foreign left-overs." Western aid, in particular the appropriation of $700 Mn [million]. For grain purchases from the U.S.A., served "more as an incentive to U.S. farming" than as aid for Russia to develop its agro-industrial complex.

Rutskoy said that a radical new reform program had been developed for the country's industrial complex, placing the emphasis on preserving the harvest by improving its processing and storage. The Russian government has not approved it thus far, however.

Khasbulatov Says 'Radicals' Bypassing Parliament

OW1304164493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing representatives of agro-industrial complex on April 13 in Russia's House of Soviets, speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov declared that the decrees adopted by the Russian parliament, as well as the Russian Constitution, "appeared to be unnecessary for the executive power," more precisely "for a small group of radicals who have seized the executive power." According to the speaker, currently the Russian state is "in rather a dangerous situation" because "the collapse of a state begins when the power stops to fulfill the law."

Khasbulatov believes that "the attempted state coup has acquired a creeping character and every day it seizes new spheres of power." As an example, Khasbulatov has mentioned the decree of the Russian President regarding the decision of Mordovia's parliament to liquidate the post of president in this republic within the Russian Federation. He called President of Mordovia Vasiliy Guslyannikov "just a criminal," who was using the state budget "for his private purposes and who has exchanged 2000 tons of fertilizer for several rail way cars of rice vodka in China."

Khasbulatov accused the federal executive authorities of supporting General Dudayev's regime, otherwise, the parliament speaker believes, "he would have fallen long ago."

Ruslan Khasbulatov predicted a greater aggravation of contradictions will start in Russia immediately after the referendum. In Khasbulatov's opinion, simultaneous

premature elections of the Russian President and parliament should become the main result of the referendum. Then "many honorary and other functions" may be preserved for the president, but he should not be head of executive power in Russia, Khasbulatov was convinced. He also believed it impossible to grant the right to nominate candidates for the post of the head of government, who, for his part, would form his team independently of the president.

Laws Hinder Executive Power

LD1304190793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1818 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, Ruslan Khasbulatov, believes that the executive power "does not need" the parliament-adopted laws. Speaking at a meeting of deputies-agrarians at the House of Government on Tuesday, the parliamentary speaker said that the "laws are hindering the executive power, as well as the constitution itself does."

According to Ruslan Khasbulatov, "failures have occurred in the economic policy" and at present those guilty are being searched "now amongst the red-brown, now amongst people's deputies with the speaker at the head."

"A narrow group of radicals has put a question like this: To destroy the state, the emerging democratic elements and subordinate everything to some group," Ruslan Khasbulatov said.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet believes that the control functions of the parliament do not suit the executive power. "The matter is not in episodic conflicts," Ruslan Khasbulatov noted. The approach to the control functions of the parliament is "exactly as it was under the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The telephones of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Soviet and the head of the government are being controlled by the Department of Guard of the President," the parliamentary speaker pointed out.

"The elections of the president and people's deputies are inevitable and they should be held simultaneously," Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed, noting that "this will be the most effective result of the referendum." According to the speaker, the president should not head the executive power which must "directly belong to the head of the government."

"It is necessary to think over the issue of representative power without which there cannot be any democracy," the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation emphasised.

Khasbulatov Meets With Industrialists, Financiers

LD1304163693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—At a meeting with industrialists and financiers held in the Russian House of Soviets today, Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said "matters in the economy are going downhill but instead of solving economic problems, one has to deal with referenda."

"Life will not stop at the April 25 referendum. Therefore, one needs to think today how to improve the economic position of the state," Khasbulatov emphasised.

He denied arguments that the Supreme Soviet and people's deputies are against entrepreneurship. "This is a primitive lie," he said.

Khasbulatov maintained that "the pool of deputies favours a mixed economy, free enterprise and the development of the economy based on the combination of various forms of ownership."

Sees Hyperinflation

OW1304183393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Hyperinflation, which has for a long time been said to be far away, is in fact upon us, Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said Tuesday [13 April] at a meeting with members of the banking and financial section and of the industrial policy and entrepreneurship section of the scientific council which reports to him. Khasbulatov called for amending the banking legislation on crediting. He rejected allegations that parliament was obstructing entrepreneurship and described them as "crude lies." The deputies want free entrepreneurship and a combination of various kinds of ownership in the economy, he emphasized.

Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, told the meeting that the inflation rate was likely to soar in the second quarter of 1993 and made it clear that by mid May the fallacy of today's "mechanical approach" to crediting and monetary mechanisms would become apparent. "I do not think that the statement made by the Finance Ministry that the Supreme Soviet increases the budgetary spending is sound," Gerashchenko said. He described the present state of affairs where the initially estimated budgetary deficit to the tune of 10 Tn [trillion]. Rubles had to be increased by 5-6 Tn. rubles of credits as a "financial, crediting, and monetary puzzle."

More on Khasbulatov Meeting With Veterans Groups

Fears Rigging of Referendum

LD1304121493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, is campaigning for the referendum today. In Moscow he had a meeting with representatives of veterans' organizations.

[Correspondent Vladimir Perfilyev] The closer the referendum comes, the greater the torrent of arguments and accusations between the contending sides. At today's meeting in Moscow with Russian and Muscovite war and labor veterans Ruslan Khasbulatov described the president and the government as the principal opponents of reform in the country. He repeated the view he expressed earlier, that government organizations are collecting funds with which to bribe voters.

Ruslan Khasbulatov implied there was no guarantee that the results of the referendum would not be rigged if the telephones of the Supreme Soviet chairman, the chairman of the Constitutional Court and the head of the government were actually being tapped by special services.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] The head of the executive branch declares that, irrespective of the results of the referendum, he has his own method, his own way of counting votes, and so on. This is nonsense, of course, in a constitutional state, in a democratic state. This is an impossible situation. This impossible situation has been made possible by us legislators, by the fact that we have played into their hands, the fact that we have made one mistake after another and allowed ourselves to make concessions. [end recording]

[Perfilyev] Ruslan Khasbulatov reckons that general elections would be the best solution to the protracted dispute.

More on Remarks

LD1304171893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—A meeting of labor, armed forces and law enforcement bodies' veterans with representatives of the Russian Parliament was held at the Russian Supreme Soviet Parliament Center today.

Ruslan Khasbulatov told the meeting about problems the Russian Parliament and representative bodies are facing. In his opinion, the system of councils, which is the core of democracy, should play a considerable role in consolidation of Russian statehood.

Asked when the parliament adopts the law "on veterans", Khasbulatov said "if the electors do not dissolve the parliament at the April referendum", the act will be adopted next month.

In Khasbulatov's opinion, the best way out of the crisis is universal elections. However, the speaker fears possible juggling with referendum results.

Khasbulatov Criticizes Yeltsin, Views West's Support

LD1004142093 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Interview Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov by Andrzej Sierzieniewski in Moscow; date not given—recorded; Khasbulatov speaks in Russian with superimposed Polish translation]

[Text] [Sierzieniewski] Mr. Chairman, do you agree with the statement that Russia today is half-way between dictatorship and civil war?

[Khasbulatov] The symptoms of what you are talking about exist. We recently had an attempted coup d'etat, an attempt to introduce a personality regime. This type of action is the result of totally wrong decisions in the economic sphere, which—understandably—arouse people's discontent. In order to divert public attention from the real reasons, from the problems, enemies are sought. It is being said that the communists are attacking, that the country has to be saved from their dictatorship. But this is only a placard behind which to hide the strivings to seize even greater power.

[Sierzieniewski] In his television address in March, Boris Yeltsin said that we are witnessing the revenge of Bolshevik forces in Russia. He said that they were mainly grouped in parliament and around the Congress of People's Deputies. What is the political hue of these bodies, in your view, and who is a Bolshevik at the end of the 20th century following the collapse of the Soviet Union?

[Khasbulatov] I think that the biggest Bolshevik is Boris Yeltsin himself. For 30 years he made a successful career for himself in the party, and he gained a good grasp of those methods of operating. But it was none other than the deputies who incorporated in the constitution democratic norms that the world was awaiting from us—human rights, private property, division of powers, and so on.

In addition, the deputies have their feet firmly on the ground. They understand Russians' concerns and expectations. That is why, among other things, they are critical of the government reform program, including the shock therapy grafted on our soil from Poland. It could not take root in our country as we are a completely different state from you, and we have more options for economic development. Unthinking repetition of other people's models could not, therefore, yield good results, and this

is something we have in fact warned about in parliament for a long time. Only today, no one wants to remember this. An enemy is needed on whom the blame can be shifted. A whole propaganda mechanism is brought into play to this end, and people are set one against the other. Such nearly Goebbels-type methods were not employed even in communist times.

[Sierzieniewski] The Russian war at the top is a struggle for the future shape of Russia: the rate and scale of the changes. What kind of Russia are you fighting for?

[Khasbulatov] I am fighting for a truly democratic and developing Russia, in which everyone feels safe and unafraid that the stomping of military boots will be heard on the stairs in the night and somebody will appear at their door and say: Let us go! We have been through all that. We want to avoid that kind of order. We want to have open borders, to cooperate with the world, to be aware that we live in a powerful state that is capable of defending our interests. That is the kind of country our people need—and not just our people either.

[Sierzieniewski] The West comes out unanimously, in fact, for Yeltsin. Don't you think that the Supreme Soviet's policy of supporting, for example, Iraq or Serbia frightens your partners away?

[Khasbulatov] That is not so. I think that the Western leaders' statements are too one-sided and interfere in our internal affairs too. Their own interests are concealed behind the support of which you speak. For example: Helmut Kohl. It is obvious why he supports Yeltsin. It is a question of the earlier withdrawal of our troops stationed in Germany, which Yeltsin has already agreed to anyway. And I ask: Where will we put those soldiers? We have nothing for them. Or the $24 billion? This help was promised and what happened? As far as I know, we did not get a cent. In any case, why should the West, which is going through difficulties itself, give us anything free? We should have more self-respect. Of course, I am grateful for the help given to us, but that does not mean that it carries the right to grade our actions: that is good and that is bad.

[Sierzieniewski] How realistic are the forecasts, in your view, that Russia will not be able to cope with her internal problems and that her citizens will then set off for the West in search of a better life?

[Khasbulatov] That is a totally wrong conclusion. Unfortunately, similar ideas are being spread by people from the ruling circles. Some of them have already been christened here in Russia with the name collective Rasputin. They are frightening the West on purpose, that if it does not help, then it will become [word indistinct]. I believe we will cope perfectly with our problems. The less that collective Rasputin interferes with us, the quicker we will overcome our problems. On the other hand, as a democratic state, we gave people the chance to move about freely. The world expected this of us. But under no circumstances should this mean an exodus to the West. This is definitely an artificial concept.

[Sierzieniewski] Mr. Chairman, what is preventing the Russians from sitting down at a roundtable today—as happened in Poland in the spring of 1989—and resolving the fundamental problems there?

[Khasbulatov] That is the idea, in fact. By the terms of the decision of the congress, the parliament, and the government convened a roundtable, inviting all political forces to work out a concept of national reconciliation. But the president did not like it. He is backed by people with extreme radical views, who do not have public support. Yeltsin has become their slave, in fact. They do not allow him to behave as he would like. They are, in essence, neo-Bolsheviks. One of them has even got a list of politicians who have to be interned. I am at the top of it. That is [word indistinct] democracy. Anyway, they openly say that they did not take power to give it back now. Completely [word indistinct].

[Sierzieniewski] Yeltsin has said that he sees no alternative to himself. What do you think about that?

[Khasbulatov] That was clumsy. How could I say that I have no alternative? Not even the pope says that. He never would, anyhow, because he is an intelligent man. It is not true that there is nobody worthy of the office of president among Russia's 150 million-strong society.

[Sierzieniewski] Many people are asking today: Who is Khasbulatov? It is thought that you will put forward your candidacy in the coming presidential elections.

[Khasbulatov] No, I will not run for president or prime minister or for chairman of parliament. I regard myself as a bad politician. I was a good professor of economics. I supervised, among others, Ph.D. students in economics from Poland— and not in socialist, but market economics—so I would be glad to go back to my university and to my work there.

[Sierzieniewski] It emerges from the opinion polls, with such formal requirements as set now, that Yeltsin will not win the referendum, but the majority of voters will vote for him and for early parliamentary elections. Will this not lead to another round of dangerous confrontation?

[Khasbulatov] Of course it will. That is why I came out against the referendum—just as the president himself initially did. Moreover, we have imperfect legislation in this field. We agreed last year that we would give people a rest from ideology and politics in 1993; we would tackle economic reforms. But as the economic situation worsened and there were successive government defeats, a new round of political struggle began to be imposed on us. I warned that the referendum would not yield any positive results and that it would lead to divisions in society. But we were forced to implement the presidential ideas.

[Sierzieniewski] The presidential side is appealing for voting in the referendum four times yes. What is your appeal?

[Khasbulatov] No, I will not appeal for anything. I want everybody to think very seriously, to consider carefully, and to vote as he thinks fit.

[Sierzieniewski] You know Yeltsin very well, Mr. Chairman. You were, one can say, at the same barricade. How did the parting of your ways happen?

[Khasbulatov] The division of power in the past was not devised by chance. When there are no limitations, even an ideal leader will become warped. Who knows, given his character, what sort of a politician Churchill would have been if it had not been for the strong British Parliament, or Nixon, not restrained by the American Congress.

I think that the strivings by the executive authority to escape from control are natural; but on the other hand, it is the task of the legislative authority to tame the impulses of the rulers. Here in Russia, probably the psychological traits of a first secretary of a rayon party committee are getting the upper hand. People for decades (?got into the habit) of disrespect for the Constitution and that can be seen in our president's behavior. Besides, an autocratic consciousness dominates in Russia. Even the leader's mistakes must be interpreted as his success. I cannot do it like that.

[Sierzieniewski] Mr. Chairman, to conclude, what is your forecast? How will this Russian crisis end?

[Khasbulatov] I think it will end in peace; that we will find the golden mean enabling us to get out of the crisis. I am following events in Poland. There are clear signs of revitalization there. I think that this will come about here in Russia too. The most important thing at the present stage is to defend democracy in Russia. We will cope with the economy. We must not slide into dictatorship. There already was a communist dictatorship; now, we are threatened with an anti-communist one. For the average person there is no difference whether the man hammering on the door of his home with a rifle-butt has a party card in his pocket or not.

[Sierzieniewski] Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the interview.

Finance Minister Interviewed on 12 April Hearings

LD1204222393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1959 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Interview with Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov by correspondent Irina Ozrina at the Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 12 April—recorded]

[Text] [Ozrina] What can these particular parliamentary hearings give in reality and are they not, yet again, taking the form of a sorting out of relations and nothing else?

[Fedorov] In my view, there has not been any sorting out of relations, as you put it, and there was no sorting out of relations in the past. There is nothing personal here. The question is what monetary and credit policy we will have. If there is a monetary and credit policy which is aimed at the fight against inflation, which has concrete quantitative parameters and which can be checked, say, if the guidelines are accepted, what do we receive at the end of the year? In my view, both the voters and all the citizens should know what specific institutions, bodies, the government etc. promise and what we actually receive, so that we can find out afterward why something went wrong or right.

Up to date inflation has been the most important problem; it costs everyone a great deal—every enterprise and every individual. The monetary and credit policy is naturally one of the main levers in the fight against inflation.

[Ozrina] On which positions have you reached a compromise with the Central Bank, and on which positions do you still adhere to the assessments which you gave in your document?

[Fedorov] In principle, the most important achievement is the fact that the Central Bank has agreed to the top limit of the centralized credit of 30 percent in the second quarter. This is what we tried to achieve. In my opinion, this is an achievement. Three deputy chairmen have signed it, and Gerashchenko has even made a statement and, through the media, called on us to reduce the deficit. This was very pleasant. It was music to my ears.

Second, bank prime rates have been slightly raised. This is not enough; 100 percent is about 50 percent below the market level, but nevertheless it is a move forward. The moves forward have been made in these two directions. There has also been some progress on the CIS credits, in the understanding of the fact that a black hole there should be closed so that inflation does not get through this channel.

However, this does not mean that full mutual understanding has been reached. I have sent my list of demands to the Board of Directors of the Central Bank. There has been some progress on certain positions. But we will not leave the Central Bank alone until we beat them [word indistinct].

[Ozrina] Credits in the CIS—this is precisely the question I wanted to ask—many CIS states are now leaving the ruble zone. Can you tell me whether payments with the countries which have left the ruble zone will be made in rubles—as before—and if not, then at what exchange rate; and will we manage to stabilize the existing credit and finance system to a certain extent? Now Ukraine has announced it is moving over to a karbovanets zone, etc.

[Fedorov] In the first place, in my opinion there never was a ruble zone. Any currency zone should have clear rules and mechanisms for entering and leaving the zone, and so on. No one is subject to any such rules. There were attempts to get organized and coordinated, but nothing came of them. Therefore, we must now look on all these countries as foreign states, and, as with all states, we must conclude normal agreements. If specific credits are provided, they have to be given over a specific

time period, with specific interest rates, and specific guarantees, and so on. Thus the system which existed last year and at the start of this year, when a whole host of operations—often dubious, often unknown quantities—automatically received credits has to stop. We can no longer provide cash support as in the past, as the State Bank used to do when the USSR existed; it would send a load of rubles, say, somewhere or other, to Turkmenia, for instance, and that was regarded as support, free of charge. Free cash is being sent now, too. But this cannot be, because these are foreign states. If anyone wants to join the ruble zone, we must discuss the specific text of an agreement on this and specific mechanisms, mechanisms for coordinating policy on money, credit, finance, customs, currency and other aspects. At the same time it should be understood that there must be only one currency issuing center in the ruble zone, namely the Bank of Russia. Consequently, the central banks of those states which genuinely do make up the ruble zone will not, essentially, be central banks.

[Ozrina] But how will individual enterprises located in different countries make payments to one another, if they do not wish to make settlements though the Central Bank, but have direct financial and direct economic links with specific enterprises? I am thinking of quite big enterprises here.

[Fedorov] This issue came to a head long ago: Corresponding accounts should be opened both in banks in Russia and in banks in Ukraine, for example. You sell something in Ukraine and get a return in karbovantsy, which are paid into an account in a Ukrainian bank. Thereafter, you can buy something for these karbovantsy on the Ukrainian market.

[Ozrina] And what led you to come back to the sphere of government after two and a half years?

[Fedorov] What led me was the fact there are specific tasks which have to be tackled. Also, at the end of last year there was a very evident process of deviation from the policy of reforms—and the danger of it still exists today—and I naturally regarded it as my duty to prevent this policy of reforms from coming to a halt; I regarded it as my duty to take part in the process of ensuring that the policy of reforms advances in a more professional and coordinated way. In the last two years we have grown up, in the sense that we do not live by our emotions. I think that the situation as it exists is extremely lamentable, with the political squabbles continuing. It will be very difficult to achieve success. But I am nevertheless, in the medium term, an optimist.

Further on Central Bank Head's Comments at Hearings

LD1304154793

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1945 GMT on 12 April carries the 15-minute "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session" program with recorded highlights of the proceedings at the Soviet of Nationalities session on 12 April.

Parliamentary hearings are held on Russia's credit and finance policy for 1993. Viktor Gerashchenko, chairman of the Russian Central Bank, delivers the opening address at the session, which is attended by Russian bankers. Gerashchenko says that the "increasing rate at which the money mass is increasing, under conditions of an unbalanced economy, heightens the danger of breakdown and hyperinflation. The Bank of Russia will therefore do everything within its powers to prevent such an outcome." At the same time, the rapid reduction in April-June 1993 of the average increase in the money mass, as advocates of harsh financial stablization policy suggest, can hardly be regarded as realistic, and would exacerbate a whole series of socio-economic problems, he adds.

Answering a question from the floor from Deputy Fedoseyev on the difficulties in payments between enterprises in the machine-building industry, Gerashchenko says that the Bank is currently drawing up procedures for making settlements between commercial banks and clearing centers; these should be introduced around the end of April and will involve more specific legal accountability on the part of both commercial banks and the Central Bank and its clearing centers. Nonpayment is also frequently linked with the financial state of individual enterprises, and new forms of settlements must be developed to cope with enterprise insolvency, he states.

Asked about the development of the commercial banking system, Gerashchenko admits that "we were in a bit too much of a hurry here, and exceeded the bounds of what was sensible": the reform of the banking system began in 1988, when the Central Bank shed its commercial functions and commercial banks began to develop. By 1991, "the management of the Central Bank, possibly with the backing of other structures of power, opted for an accelerated destruction of those banks which could have represented strong banks with a certain government involvement. What should have been done was to ensure that the capital of, for instance, Agrobank or Promtekhbank was increased by attracting new shareholders, but a proportion of state capital should have been left there through direct involvement or by setting up some sort of investment funds under these banks."

Defense, Security Committee Considers Abkhazia Conflict

OW1304183993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [13 April] the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security considered the situation concerning the armed conflict in Abkhazia at the request of the Georgian parliamentary delegation. Boris Pastukhov, the Deputy Foreign Minister, representatives of

the Defense Ministry, a Georgian delegation headed by Chairman of Parliamentary commission on defense and state security Nodar Natadze, and the Georgian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Valeriyan Advadze took part in the session of the committee.

The Georgian representatives fully understood the impossibility of an urgent withdrawal of the Russian forces from the Abkhazian territory due to social-economic reasons and proposed to accommodate servicemen in empty barracks near Tbilisi. The Georgian parliamentarians also underlined that they would not oppose presence of the Russian forces in the conflict zone if they acted under the auspices of one of the international organizations.

With the consent of the guests, the Russian parliamentary committee made a decision to form a joint interparliamentary commission made up of Russian and Georgian deputies to interact in the settlement of the situation in Abkhazia.

At the session of the committee its chairman, Sergey Stepashin, underlined that the Russian parliamentarians intended to force a solution of the issue to change status of the Russian armed forces temporarily stationed in Abkhazia which, he thinks, can act under the auspices of the CSCE.

In his interview with Interfax Nodar Natadze pointed out that the results of the first joint contact between two structures of the Russian and Georgian parliaments "have givben rise to optimism." Stepashin told our Interfax correspondent that the Russian parliamentarians intended shortly to visit Tbilisi, Sukhumi and Gudauta and then "they will directly begin to develop draft treaties and agreements with Georgia which will determine ways to surmount the crisis situation in Abkhazia."

Regional Affairs

Further on Yeltsin Visit to Kuznetsk Basin

LD1304120293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent] At 1000 Moscow time today President Yeltsin arrived in Novokuznetsk. His program here is very short, around just six hours. He plans to meet with miners, to visit a maternity home, meet with pensioners, and have talks with the leadership of the oblast.

[Correspondent addresses Yeltsin] Boris Nikolayevich, the Vesti program. You have a very short visit here. At such a strained time, coming up to the referendum. Why? What is the need?

[Yeltsin] I have to travel around Russia. All the more so at this time. What do you think I should do at such a difficult time, stay in Moscow? I do not understand.

[Correspondent] Yes, I thought perhaps you might have decided not to leave.

[Yeltsin] No. In two days I am flying off again and then again in another three days. I have got a big itinerary.

[Correspondent] What are the main social issues, so to speak?

[Yeltsin] Here it is the draft bill which has been prepared, a draft government program for social protection of the coal miners.

[Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, are you still advising people to answer yes to all four questions in the referendum?

[Yeltsin] I have said that morally I cannot do anything else, you understand. I am personally, morally unable to ask people to put yes to three questions then on one—the reelection of the president, or early elections for president—no. But the collectives and each citizen will choose for themselves and decide themselves.

[Correspondent] Your personal fate is also being decided on 25 April, after all. Are you thinking about that?

[Yeltsin] Yes, I do think about that, of course, but to a lesser extent. After all, I have to think more about Russia. [video shows Yeltsin talking to miners]

[Yeltsin] have no worry about firmness. Somebody is hampering us at the moment, you know, don't you, who is hampering us. If everything goes well on the 25th...

[Unidentfied woman in crowd, interrupting] And we hope it does.

[Yeltsin resumes] ...then we will have order.

[Correspondent] The first place the president visited today is the Abashevskaya mine, a mine where the independent trade union of miners is very strong.

Meets With Miners' Representatives

LD1304142693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is paying a one-day working visit to Novokuznetsk today. This is the third time he has visited this industrial region of Siberia in recent years. Here is a report on Yeltsin's stay.

[Correspondent Sergey Shatunov] The Russian president's aircraft landed at Novokuznetsk after a [number indistinct]-hour flight. Boris Yeltsin has come to visit the Kuzbass, in its way the mining center of Russia, to win the coalminers' support at the forthcoming referendum.

[Yeltsin, addressing reporters near aircraft] Life has always been rather difficult for miners, especially these last few years and last year, in particular. It is exactly two

years since I was last here, in April last year—sorry, the year before last. Therefore I have to take a look.

[Shatunov] I remind you that the strikes which spread through the Kuzbass in 1989 rocked the economy of the former USSR. The present reform policies being pursued by the Russian president are also coming in for much criticism here. In this respect Novokuznetsk remains one of the least favorable regions for Boris Yeltsin.

After the airport ceremony the president's motorcade headed for the Abashevskaya mine. En route a stop was made at the city center, where the president was greeted by residents of Novokuznetsk. At the mine Boris Yeltsin had hour-long talks with representatives of workers' committees and trade unions and Kuzbass mining chiefs on problems which are worrying miners. The president disclosed that he would soon sign a package of documents on support for the mining industry. He also promised to satisfy the Abashevskaya miners' demand for the flotation of shares in the pit.

Boris Yeltsin then visited the social security committee of Ordzhonikidzevskiy rayon in Novokuznetsk, where he spoke to pensioners and war and labor veterans.

Comments on CIS, 1994 Prices

LD1304140593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1324 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Novokuznetsk, 13 Apr—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met today with war and labor veterans in Kuzbass. He said that contrary to the usual procedure only one issue would be discussed at the CIS heads of state meeting in Minsk on 16 April—how to improve relations within the CIS. Boris Yeltsin spoke in favor of strengthening Russia's borders. He pointed out that Estonia, for example, tops the list of nickel exporters although it does not produce nickel. Many goods are being exported from Russia to Tajikistan and then to adjacent countries. The Russian leader suggested "closing the borders with Georgia and Azerbaijan".

"Belarus is another matter," Boris Yeltsin added, "it presents no problems to us. No measures are being taken by the Russian side by way of closing the border with Ukraine, but it is setting up customs offices on the Russian border."

As he answered questions, Boris Yeltsin voiced an opinion that in 1994 prices would become more stable and a pre-1985 output level of consumer goods would be regained.

Against Deregulating Coal Prices

OW1304140193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a coal mine in Novokuznetsk President Boris Yeltsin has spoken against deregulating coal prices. Such a move would cause a chain reaction, as the coal price is included in the prices of bread, meat and all other goods.

Earlier speaking at the airport of Novokuznetsk, where he arrived for a brief visit on Tuesday [13 April], he stressed that he had come to Western Siberia to check the national program drafted in Moscow for protecting the coal industry and miners. The president said the draft contains every aspect of the matter from coal prices to environmental matters. When Interfax' correspondent asked him whether the program would be signed during the president's stay in Novokuznetsk as had been planned, Boris Yeltsin said that he wants to study the situation in the area first and discuss the draft with miners and the heads of several industries accompanying him during the trip. "I do not want hasty populist decisions, the signing of important documents at rallies. This is a time to make responsible decisions," the president said. He also said that next Monday [19 April] he is to meet miners' representatives from around the country.

Answering newsmen's questions about the coming referendum Yeltsin stressed that the nation will have to decide about the future of the country, young Russian democracy. "My personal future will be decided on April 25, but it concerns me much less than the future of Russia, its people and democracy," he said.

"People in Siberia as well as in the Urals supported the strategy of reforms, my efforts went towards getting them through at the most difficult times and I rely on their support now too," Boris Yeltsin said.

Cited on Banking, Crime

LD1304142293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Talalayev and Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Novokuznetsk, the Kemerovo Region, April 13 TASS—Miners of the Abashevskaya pit in western Siberia's Kuzbass region met Russian President Boris Yeltsin today with a slogan "We Need Only Firm President!"

Analyzing the mining industry situation, Yeltsin ruled out freeing coal prices. "We will not raise prices for coal. We cannot do it. The whole Russia will explode. Higher prices for coal mean higher prices for bread, milk and everything," he said.

In Yeltsin's words, the industry will enjoy quarterly subsidies to be revised for their coverage of the coal prime cost and other spending, including the social sphere.

A package of measures on the mining industry has been prepared to be signed in seven-ten days. The package is a state program to support the mining industry and solve

practically all miners' problems, with the exception of coal price formation, said the president.

Speaking of the Russian economic situation, he said "the war between the Central Bank and the government over the emission has ended". Head of the Russian Central Bank board Viktor Gerashchenko has joined the government. The emission level will be set each quarter by a double decision of the government and the Central Bank to not exceed 30 per cent.

Bearing in mind the population's grave concern over anti-crime measures, Yeltsin stressed much money is being allocated for this purpose, police and interior troops' strength is being increased, and equipment for them is being purchased abroad.

At the same time, "bribery is frequent, including that in foreign economic relations". Three deputy ministers were caught red-handed, said Yeltsin, but did not call their names.

"You want me to be firm. As for crimes, I will show extreme firmness," noted the president.

Will Not Cooperate With Parliament

LD1304161793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1522 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Novokuznetsk, Kemerovo oblast, 13 Apr—"The president and the government will do everything to make the region's economy stable," Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated today at the end of his one-day trip to Novokuznetsk. To the question put by the ITAR- TASS correspondents as to whether he will become active in cooperating with the Supreme Soviet of Russia to resolve urgent problems in the Kuzbass, Boris Yeltsin replied: "Not before 25 April!"

This evening the president of Russia left Novokuznetsk for Moscow.

Enlists Support From Miners

OW1304172193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] President Yeltsin at the end of a visit to Novokuznetsk, the administrative center of the Kuznetsk coalfields in the Siberian Kemerovo region, held a meeting with representatives of workers' and trade union committees and regional pit managers at the Abashevskaya coal-mine.

A top city official told Interfax on condition of anonymity that "the President is seeking to enlist unconditional miners' support at the forthcoming referendum". He said Yeltsin was setting great store by the support from coal-mining regions, including the Southern Kuznetsk region, which had repeatedly threatened a strike whenever the political situation around the President worsened.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: At the beginning of 1991 when relations between Yeltsin and USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev had strained, local miners went on strike in support of demands for Gorbachev's resignation. Many say it was largely due to miners' pressure that Gorbachev had to make concessions to Yeltsin by agreeing to a draft Union treaty acceptable to the Russian leader. During the attempted coup in Moscow in August 1991, the miners of the Southern Kuznetsk coal-mining region were the first to announce a strike in protest against the coup attempt.

Speaking at Novokuznetsk airport, Yeltsin said the referendum would be crucial for the country's future and its fledgling democracy. He said that although it would also decide his own future, he was more concerned about the future of Russia, its people and democracy.

Yeltsin said he relied for support on the peoples of Siberia and the Urals who backed up his reform policy and his struggle for it during hard times.

He also promised to pursue a policy as firm as was now needed in the event of winning a confidence vote on April 25.

The President was also expected to give a response to the demand by a majority of pit managers of Novokuznetsk, Prokopyevsk and Mezhdurechensk to authorize the establishment of a regional coal-mining stock company in the Southern Urals independent from the rest of the Kuznetsk region. However, the region's Chief Administrator Mikhail Kisluik says this could be fatal both for the region and the coal-mining sector as a whole. He hopes Yeltsin will not succumb to "economic separatists" in exchange for support.

Our special correspondent Boris Grishenko says Yeltsin has promised the miners to consider and issue a package of decrees in Moscow to provide benefits and subsidies to the coal industry of the region and Russia as well as to straighten out the sector's financial troubles. These include the lifting of mandatory sales of foreign exchange revenues and export-import trade barriers as well as benefits and subsidies to the regional pits.

Yeltsin said his government would continue to consider the coal industry as part of the state sector, but he authorized the fuel and energy ministry to decide whether or not individual pits should be allowed to own 51 percent of shares in trust management.

The Russian leader stressed that he had arrived for on-spot consideration of a draft government plan to protect the coal sector and miners.

Yeltsin said the draft contained a comprehensive package of measures to improve one of the vital basic

industries from coal prices and wages down to environmental problems. Asked if the draft plan would be signed during his visit in Novokuznetsk as planned before, Yeltsin said he wanted a thorough on-spot study and discussion with local miners and leaders of other sectors accompanying him during the tour. He said he did not want to take hasty populist decisions when vital documents were signed at public rallies adding that now was the time for responsible decision-making.

Yeltsin also said he would meeting miners' representatives from all parts of Russia on April 19.

Observers focus on the Supreme Soviet's alternative plan for the socio-economic development of the Kuznetsk Basin. The parliament presidium considered a draft decree to that effect on Monday, prepared by a group of deputies including Boris Isayev, former deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who took part in the recent session of the parliament of Mordovia which abolished the presidency in that republic.

Under the decree, the government and Central Bank would have to allocate credits on the basis of estimates made by Kemerovo Region. The parliamentary Social Policy Commission would have to cancel penalties mines and coal-processing enterprises had to pay for their pension fund arrears. Parliament would have to consider this month a draft law on a federal fund for paying coal enterprises compensation for the losses they might incur as a result of the state regulation of coal prices.

This is not the first time parliament has attempted to issue acts alternative to presidential decrees. Thus, while the president issued a decree on measures to protect the population's bank accounts, the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies issued a decree on paying the holders of bank accounts compensation for their depreciation as a result of inflation. [passage omitted]

Kuzbass 'Ecological Disaster Zone'

LD1304185993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report from Kuzbass by correspondent Nikolay Chirkov—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] In this ecological disaster zone—thus have Russian ecologists diagnosed the Kuzbass region—there are many enterprises urgently in need of reconstruction. These include the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine which Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin visited this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The main thing, and the Russian president paid particular attention to this, is that there will be an improvement in the ecological situation. There will be a decrease in the amount of effluents which literally choke the city with smoke and gas.

Doctors at the city's largest maternity hospital also told Boris Nikolayevich about the need to pay increased attention to protecting the health of Siberians, where the density of industrial enterprises approaches the critical mark. There is a shortage of medicines, modern hopitals and clinics, and medical equipment. The need to pay more attention to social programs was also stated by the participants in a roundtable meeting which ended Yeltsin's visit to the Kuzbass. [passage omitted]

Anti-Yeltsin Demonstration

LD1304205493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report from Kuzbass by correspondent A. Kolpanov—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] This evening Boris Yeltsin returned to Moscow from a one-day working trip to Novokuznetsk.

[Kolpakov] On the road to the Kuznetsk metallurgical combine, Boris Yeltsin visited a maternity home where he met the staff and patients. At Kuznetsk metallurgical combine, one of the oldest in Russia, the president learned in detail of the plans for reconstruction of the plant. Then he met the heads of the local administration and leaders of the major industrial enterprises.

Miners who had declared their support for the president's dialogue on development of the fuel and energy complex insisted on the need for fresh capital investments in the sector and tax concessions on coal exports.

Outside the Kuznetsk metallurgical combine administrative building—the president is still holding a conference with the heads of the administration—a picket awaits him with placards. True, it is not clear whom these people represent, but with their mouths at any rate they do not answer this question. The placards raised over the heads of the pickets express well-known theses from the arsenals of the patriots and the president's opposition. The picket was poorly attended—about 15 people—but nevertheless such a mood does undoubtedly exist in the Kuzbass, and the president was perhaps too optimistic in his impressions of the trip.

He was also negatively assessed by leaders of the Independent Trade Union of Miners. In their opinion, the program for the brief visit of the head of state turned out to have been compiled in such a way that it did not increase his rating before the referendum.

At 2030 local time the president of Russia left for Moscow again. His stay in Novokuznetsk lasted six hours. [video shows people with placards reading: "Yeltsin, the Kuzbass is not a sampler or testing ground"; "The miners are not all Kuzbass. Either with us or with your tormentor to Israel"; "Long live Yeltsin and high prices"; and "Yeltsin! Lie on the rails"]

Paper Views Purpose of Visit

PM1304183993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko and Viktor Kostyukovskiy: "Boris Yeltsin Brings to Kuzbass Not a Bribe But a Program for Region's Development"]

[Text] Novokuznetsk—the city of miners and metallurgists where B. Yeltsin arrived on the morning of 13 April—can be considered the first port of call in a whole series of trips by the president through the regions of Russia in connection with the forthcoming referendum. He announced this to journalists immediately after flying in.

Of course, it is possible to hear more than enough opinions on this score while waiting for the president's plane to arrive: everything from a purely populist step to a strictly business trip. Kemerovo Oblast Soviet Chairman A. Tuleyev, in conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent, stated that the president's visit to the Kuzbass has the goal of bribing the miners. It implied a prepared wage rate agreement providing for a wage increase for miners by a factor of 1.9. However, the oblast chairman's attitude toward the actual program for the socioeconomic development of the Kuzbass—agreement on which was the reason for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Novokuznetsk—proved to be entirely positive. That is to say that Tuleyev approves of the preferential credits for the Kuzbass, compensation for the damage inflicted on the environment as a result of coal mining, and the transfer of some of the shares from the federal property fund to local level. All this is provided for in the program. I did not get a reasoned reply to my direct question as to what he does not like in the president's actions. Tuleyev believes the president guilty of the deaths of miners during an accident last year, although he does not believe himself to be guilty.

M. Kislyuk, head of the oblast adminstration, stated to IZVESTIYA's correspondent that, despite the natural difficulties which the Kuzbass's mining collectives face, the majority in the region support the president.

Boris Yeltsin stated to journalists at Novokuznetsk Airport that he cannot sit idly in Moscow at such a difficult time. Why was the Kuzbass chosen for one of these visits? Replying to this question the president said: The last time I was here was exactly two years ago. It is time to review how people are living, to talk to them. Especially since a draft edict, and also a package of government decrees and directives accompanying it, has been prepared on the coal sector and the social protection of miners and inhabitants of Kemerovo Oblast. They have always had a pretty hard life, especially in recent years. "That is what people's power is for," Yeltsin said to a question on the referendum. "As the people decide, so it will be. That is why I ventured on this step. If the people trust us, we will carry out a firmer policy [boleye tverdaya politika]." In the days ahead he has visits scheduled to other regions of Russia. He believes in the miners' support. "They supported me in the most difficult times," the president said. "I have come here to check a whole package of documents designed to resolve the problems of Kuzbass across the board, except for the freeing of coal prices. But these documents will be signed not here, as happened before, at a rally, but in Moscow."

At the "Abashevskaya" Mine the director assured the president of the collective's complete support. Although the traditional requests at once ensued: that a more realistic price be established for coal, or else more tangible compensation be allocated if the subsidy system is maintained. It turned out also that the mine does not, unlike some others, have the possibility of selling a proportion of the coal it mines at free prices. The president proposed to allocate subsidies to the mine quarterly, so that inflation does not eat into the money, but he did not agree to the freeing of coal prices, declaring that "otherwise we will destroy Russia." As for the levels of subsidies, they should be revised so as to allow both for the collective's expenditure and for production development possibilities.

In short, the conversation with the miners of "Abashevskaya" Mine was entirely businesslike. Ahead of the president lie meetings with representatives of workers and trade union committees and with the leaders of Kuzbass mining collectives. Rallies have also been held. At one it was possible to see just two banners: "We Like A Firm President," and "A President Should Rule, Not Reign."

The trip continues.

Firing of Officials Viewed

MK1404080693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Apr 93 p 14

[Boris Klin report: "Three Deputy Ministers Detained. Russian President's Statement Not Yet Confirmed"]

[Text] Speaking yesterday in Novokuznetsk at a meeting with miners, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated that the fight against bribery is being stepped up and that three deputy ministers had already been arrested in the act. The president, however, did not give either the names of the arrested officials or even the ministries in which they worked.

The Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], Security Ministry, and Prosecutor's Office press centers, which a KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent approached for explanations, refused to comment on the president's statement, stating that they knew nothing about the arrests of such high-ranking leaders. The Russian president's press service also stated that it was unaware of such arrests.

Bearing this in mind, some observers surmise that the president's sensational statement could prove to be his latest pre-referendum improvisation. Such dramatic statements, frequently unexpected even by his inner

circle, have long been Boris Yeltsin's standing practice. For example, very recently he stated that he had retired two heads of local administrations—of Novosibirsk and Irkutsk Oblasts—"for abuses," but their dismissal simply did not take place.

Others link Yeltsin's statement with the recent arrest of Vladimir Panskov, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Tax Service, whose position corresponds to the level of deputy minister. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will return to this topic 17 April (the MVD and Security Ministry press centers expect to have obtained additional information by this date).

Further on Chernomyrdin's Visit to Krasnodar

Views Land Ownership, Spring Sowing

LD1304120093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1125 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Krasnodar April 13 TASS—The changing of the forms of property in the countryside should not lead to the reduction of industrial output, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today, when visiting farms of the Ust-Labinskiy district of the Kuban area. "I agree to any form of property, but we should not permit the reduction of the output," he stressed.

When meeting the head of the Russian Government, senior executives of the district's agricultural enterprises suggested an experiment with introducing private ownership of land in Kuban, which they described as "the most conservative area of Russia". If within five years the experiment shows good results, they believe the system of the private ownership of land could be spread to the whole of Russia's territory. Yuriy Karkanov, head of the local administration of the Ust-Labinskiy district, said that it was impermissible to divide large agricultural complexes into small individual farms, because this will lead to the decline in labour productivity and the reduction of the output.

After arriving in Krasnodar today, Chernomyrdin told journalists that the purpose of his trip is "to see how the spring sowing campaign is going". In Kuban it starts earlier than in other parts of Russia, and the experience of this year's sowing campaign in the Krasnodar territory (Kuban) should be taken into consideration all over the country, he said. Chernomyrdin said the Russian Government had adopted a number of important resolutions for the purpose of creating financial, material and technical conditions needed for the proper carrying out of spring sowing.

In the afternoon Chernomyrdin will confer with local senior officials, heads of agricultural departments, representatives of collective, state and individual farms.

Calls For Votes in Favor of Yeltsin

LD1304174193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1642 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Krasnodar April 13 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has called for balloting in favour of the president at the referendum. Addressing a conference of Krasnodar territorial administration chiefs and representatives of collective farms, peasant associations and private farms today, he proposed that they carry out work among citizens to ensure a high turnout at the April 25 referendum.

Chernomyrdin believes that the voter apathy for which some forces hope "will affect our life by far from the best way."

On the government's performance in the last few months, Chernomyrdin emphasised that it managed to contain destructive processes in the Russian economy. "So far, we succeeded in keeping the performance of industries at the level of the fourth quarter of 1992," he said.

During the conference of Kuban farmers that lasted over two hours, participants raised as a matter of urgency the issue of adopting additional measures by the government "to regulate prices prudently through subsidising agricultural output and to stimulate Russian rural producers." Hope was voiced that the Russian Government "will take extra measures" to stabilise the situation in the agro-industrial sector.

Chernomyrdin flies to Mineralnyye Vody on Wednesday. He will tour several enterprises of the Stravropol territory's agro- industrial sector.

Cited on Control of 'Destructive Forces'

OW1304183093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin thinks that the largest success scored by his government in the four months in office is that it brought under control the destructive processes in the economy which "could get out of hand." In his address to the conference of agro-industrial complex managers in Krasnodar region he described the state of the national economy as unsatisfactory even though stabilization was underway in some industries and productivity was growing in others.

The situation, the prime minister said, "would be remedied not in 100 nor in 500 days." This process would take much longer. "The top priority of the cabinet now is the creation of new mechanisms and structures for operation in a market environment," Chernomyrdin said.

He emphasized that the situation in the south of Russia is influenced by "bloody conflicts in the Caucasus." In the words of the prime minister, numerous decisions have been made on strengthening Russia's southern borders; in particular, new border guard districts will be set up.

The head of the Russian cabinet called on the electorate to take an active part in the April 25 referendum.

"It is desirable that the people respond positively to all the questions, for otherwise it will be again a period of talking which leads nowhere," the prime minister said.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, now on a tour of southern Russia, speaking in Krasnodar on Tuesday called on the country's electorate to say yes to all of the four questions on the voting paper in the coming referendum on April 25. He said this also applied to the question of early presidential elections since Yeltsin himself wanted it to be put under the national referendum.

Chernomyrdin said the whole of the nation rather than a mere 40- 50 percent of the electorate must turn up on the polling day. He gave reassurances that no one would be able to drive in a wedge between the government and the president.

Chernomyrin also called for tax reform saying the government was 44 percent short in tax revenues. He believes there must be a civilised tax system and whatever tax is due must collected. Chernomyrdin is confident that tax revenues will be able to cover the country's needs if everyone pays whatever tax must be paid.

Opposes Government-President Discord

LD1304201693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Krasnodar April 13 TASS—Head of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke against attempts to "drive a wedge into relations between the president and government". Speaking at a news conference in Krasnodar on Tuesday, the Russian premier stressed that "nobody will manage to do this."

The government intends to tackle the country's economic problems in the first place. "The government should not be pulled from side to side," the prime minister noted. "The government is not a club where it is possible to carry out discussions, professional managers should work in it," the premier pointed out. "The government cannot plunge from side to side supporting only one side, only one position or faction. The government is prepared to cooperate with all and listen to all proposals," Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed.

Speaking on the problems of inflation in Russia, the prime minister said that the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation had worked out a single system of curbing inflation which, if it was consistently observed, would allow to bring inflation down to 5-7 per cent per month by the end of this year.

Arrives in Mineralnyye Vody

LD1404112693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] This morning Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, arrived from Krasnodar in Mineralnyye Vody. The prime minister is continuing to study social and economic problems of the North Caucasus region. Chernomyrdin said that it will allow him to have more influence on the stabilization of the situation so as to bring the country out of the crisis. From the airport, the head of the government and persons who are accompanying him went to Kirovskiy Rayon. Visits to some industrial and agroindustrial enterprises of Stavropol Kray are included in the further program of his visit.

Differences in Data on Tomsk-7 Damage Noted

PM1304105393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Illesh and Viktor Kostyukovskiy report: "No Radioactive Cloud Over Tomsk. But Situation in Explosion Zone By No Means Ideal"]

[Text] "What is the origin of the information regarding the 'radioactive cloud'?" Leonid Rikhvanov, head of the Tomsk Polytechnical University's Rare Element Geochemistry Mineral Department, said in utter amazement. "The military saw something on their radars and provided journalists with an indiscreet report. That was how the rumor arose...."

A "suspicious" cloud behaving anomalously was detected north of Tomsk (IZVESTIYA No. 66). So, specialists took a helicopter and flew straight to the area where it was localized and took readings. Fortunately, no radioactivity in excess of natural background levels was found.

"I can say this with utmost responsibility," L. Rikhvanov went on. "I flew there myself. We spent two days patrolling the skies at altitudes of 1 km, 2 km, and even 3 km and our apparatus failed to show any divergence from natural background level."

The report of the cloud did however manage to "spread" round virtually all the world's radio stations. Yet specialists from the Siberian chemical combine claimed from the first day of the accident that the aerosol emission of radioactive substances following the explosion of the container could not spread beyond the radiochemical plant where the accident occurred. But there was local contamination of some parts of the area because the pollutants [zagryazneniya] were discharged via an elevated ventilation tube.

Let us compare this with another statement carried by ITAR-TASS: According to information received from G. Khandorin, director of the Tomsk radiochemical combine, the radiation trail covers a distance of some 10 km from the industrial zone, and is about 9 km wide. The radiation level in this zone is 30 microroentgens per hour, double the normal background level. The part of the zone located in woodland proved the most contaminated. The radiation level there is 400 microroentgens per hour, 20 times the normal background radiation level.

A. Yablokov, chairman of the Russian president's Council for Ecological Policy, considers the situation serious. The accident at Tomsk-7 is the third accident on this scale on Russian territory in recent times. In his opinion, the people who put out the fire following the explosion received a more sizeable dose of radiation than was officially stated.

I would not want to cause excessive panic, but the hyper-reassuring information provided by "specialists conducting the on-the-spot investigation" are not overly convincing. Our experience of work in Chernobyl and countless IZVESTIYA studies of other accidents involving radiation emissions, as well as the current "corrections" from Tomsk-7 (first the area of contamination was said to be 1,000 hectares, the next day 200 square km), convince us that the military-industrial complex is ready to conduct a serious investigation into what happened, but is still not ready to talk to the people seriously via the press. The editorial office currently has information from sources close to the leadership of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy which, to put it mildly, contains somewhat different figures regarding the area of contamination and, most importantly, the actual composition of the patches [pyatno]. In short, the situation in Tomsk-7 is not at all inoffensive now.

Nuclear Ministry: IAEA Inspectors Not Expected in Tomsk

OW1304115093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Ministry for Nuclear Energy has not received any answer yet from the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning the suggestion to send a group of experts to inspect the chemical plant in Tomsk where a container with radioactive substances exploded last week.

A 120 square kilometer area was contaminated by radioactivity. Background radiation there does not exceed 30 milliroentgen an hour. The ministry and State Committee for Emergencies believe the situation is not dangerous to the population. The area surrounding the accident is being decontaminated.

However, the press service of the ministry says that Russia is not obliged to invite such inspections because, firstly, it is a nuclear power and is not bound by any international commitments in this respect, secondly, because the accident occurred at a military facility.

Tomsk Lacks Resources if Evacuation Ever Necessary

LD1304123993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A government commission establishing the reasons for and circumstances of the Tomsk-7 accident has tentatively established that clearing up the aftermath of the explosion at the chemical works will cost a total of around 20 billion rubles. A correspondent in Tomsk reports that it has been established that should there be a bigger disaster, Tomsk would not be prepared for the evacuation of the population, lacking the necessary amount of transportation, food stocks, and places for the evacuated to go. The local authorities have asked Russia's Supreme Soviet to consider the town's situation at a session and to allocate funds for the clean-up.

'Increasing Tensions' in Chechnya Over Security Minister

OW1304184893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Increasing tensions between supporters and opponents of the Minister of Security, Dalman Albakov are observed in Chechnya. At a late night meeting the ministry board gave Albakov a vote of no confidence and suggested that the parliament appoints a new minister.

President Dhzokhar Dudayev did not agree with the board's decision, as he considers replacing ministers his prerogative.

As a result starting Monday [12 April] night the building of the security ministry was being protected with armored vehicles. The Interfax correspondent in Groznyy informs that by lunchtime on Tuesday [13 April] four more tanks had rolled through the center of the city heading towards the ministry building.

An accumulation of armed people and materiel can currently be observed around the building. The Chechen parliament continues to debate the issue.

Article Criticizes Mordovia's Decision on Presidency

PM1304135093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 93 First Edition p 8

["Editorial Viewpoint" article: "Abolishing Post of President in Mordovia Represents Encroachment on System of Executive Power"]

[Text] The "march of Soviet power across the country" announced by Khasbulatov has reached a hitherto unprecedented level: The Mordovian Supreme Soviet has abolished the post of president in its republic. According to this decision, the head of parliament becomes chairman of the Mordovian Government.

The essence of what has happened needs no interpretation. It is clear and comprehensible. The legislature and the executive in the republic are now concentrated in the same hands. The constitutional principle of separation of powers has been flagrantly violated. The will of the people, who elected Vasiliy Guslyannikov as president, has been trampled underfoot. The unity of the system of executive power in the Russian Federation has been put in jeopardy.

This precedent may be repeated in other republics and is extremely dangerous for Russian integrity. In particular, the unified legal system within the Russian state is already being tested: Statements have been heard within the Mordovian Supreme Soviet to the effect that, having elected its own Constitutional Court, the republic may ignore the Russian Constitutional Court's rulings.

The Mordovian parliament's decision, which was adopted, in the opinion of Russian People's Deputy Petr Filippov, "with the knowledge of and under the strict supervision of Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet," is quite illegal. Boris Yeltsin has issued an edict noting the Mordovian Supreme Soviet's breach of legislation and ordering the republic's president and government to continue to perform their duties until the Russian Constitutional Court has ruled on this. Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray has arrived in Saransk and asked deputies to suspend their decisions until they have been examined by the Russian Constitutional Court.

In an interview with the "Novosti" TV program Mordovian Supreme Soviet Chairman N. Biryukov described these prompt and necessary steps by the federal executive as interference in the sovereign republic's internal affairs. However, for some reason he does not regard as interference the participation in the work of the Mordovian parliament session of Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Valentin Agafonov and Russian opposition leader Vladimir Isakov, who arrived in Saransk in the wake of Sergey Baburin, who visited there the day before.

It is quite obvious that the president's adversaries are trying to continue at local level the tradition of absolute power started by Russian legislators. A frontal offensive on the executive is being unleashed on the eve of the referendum, forestalling and, effectively, supplanting the people's will.

The abolition of the post of president in Mordovia represents a reconnaissance operation on the eve of the all-out battle which the forces of revenge intend to unleash on the Russian president, reforms, and democracy. The mechanism to bring the Communists back into power is being run in. The Bolshevik slogan "All Power to the Soviets" is once again being brought into political practice.

This must be resisted only within the framework of the law, using the Russian president's powers of authority, the rulings of the Constitutional Court, the assessments of the Council of Republic Heads and the Council of Governors, the authority of democratic movements, and broad public opinion. The "march of Soviet power across the country" unleashed at this critical hour for Russia must not be victorious.

Yeltsin Edict Asserts Mordovian President's Powers

PM1304145693 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Edict No. 430 issued by President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow dated 8 April: "On Ensuring the Unity of the System of Russian Federation Executive Power on the Territory of the Mordovian Soviet Socialist Republic"]

[Text] In accordance with Article 132-1 of the Russian Federation Constitution the president of a republic within the Russian Federation is part of the unified system of Russian Federation executive power led by the Russian Federation president. The Russian Federation Constitution accords the president of a republic within the Russian Federation powers to defend the sovereignty and economic and political interests of the Russian Federation, ensure the rights and freedoms of the individual, and observe the Russian Federation Constitution and laws. The provisions of Article 79 of the Russian Federation Constitution and Article 1 of the Treaty on the Demarcation of Areas of Jurisdiction and Powers between Federal Organs of State Power of the Russian Federation and Organs of Power of Sovereign Republics Within the Russian Federation confer on the president of a republic within the Russian Federation the right to participate in exercising federal powers.

It follows from the above that the decisions of the Mordovian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet on abolishing the post of president of the Mordovian SSR not only contravene the constitutional principles of democracy and separation of powers and the procedure for relieving the president of his post prescribed by the Mordovian SSR Constitution, but also constitute a breach of the Russian Federation Constitution, mark an encroachment on a Russian Federation area of jurisdiction, and infringe on the unity of the system of Russian Federation executive power.

Guided by Articles 121-1, 121-4, 121-5, and 132-1 of the Russian Federation Constitution and Article 1 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Protection of Constitutional Organs of Power in the Russian Federation," I decree that:

1. It is stipulated that until the issue of the constitutionality of the Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet's decisions

regarding the abolition of the post of president of the Mordovian SSR is properly resolved, the nationally elected president of the Mordovian SSR and the Mordovian SSR Government led by him shall perform their duties as enshrined in the Mordovian SSR Law "On Establishing the Post of President of the Mordovian SSR and Making Amendments and Addenda to the Mordovian SSR Constitution (Fundamental Law)" of 25 October 1991.

2. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers—Government, Russian Federation ministries and state committees, and other federal organs of executive power shall offer the requisite assistance to the president of the Mordovian SSR and the Government of the Mordovian SSR in exercising their powers.

[Signed] Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

The Kremlin, Moscow, 8 April 1993

'Governors of Russia' Protest Mordovian Decision

PM1304150693 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Statement issued by Governors of Russia Union, signed by A. Tyazhlov, chairman of the board of the Governors of Russia Union; date not given]

[Text] The "Governors of Russia" Russian Union of leaders of territorial organs of executive power expresses serious concern and regret in connection with the Mordovian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet's adoption of the Law on Abolishing the Post of President of the Mordovian SSR and Making Amendments to the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Mordovian SSR 7 April 1993, along with the corresponding Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet decree on the procedure for enacting this law.

Organs of executive power are now trying to pool their efforts to preserve and strengthen economic ties and are establishing cooperation between various regions of Russia in difficult conditions, and such one-sided actions by the Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet violate the principle of separation of powers and impede the organization of smooth work by the system of Russian Federation executive bodies.

We point out that President V.D. Guslyannikov, elected by the people of Mordovia, enjoys prestige among the heads of republics and kray and oblast administrations; lasting mutual relations are being established in collaboration with his presidential structures, and many regions are pinning their hopes for the successful implementation of reforms on this.

Yet the Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet's current actions may undermine the economic, scientific, and technical ties that are taking shape with Russia's republics, krays, and oblasts.

We urge the Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet to review the question of eliminating the post of president carefully, with full awareness of its responsibility, and we hope that it will make the correct, wise decision. We, the leaders of executive organs, guarantee harmonious, fruitful work with the president of Mordovia and his structures for the good of the people of Mordovia and all Russian citizens.

[Signed] A. Tyazhlov, chairman of the board of the "Governors of Russia" Union

International Affairs

Shevardnadze Ends Visit, Signs Cooperation Treaty

LD1304180293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya and Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 13 TASS—Georgian Parliament Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze's two-day official visit to Ukraine was capped today by the signing of a Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Ukraine and Georgia.

At their joint press conference, Leonid Kravchuk and Shevardnadze specially emphasised the word "mutual assistance" in the name of the treaty. They said it means support of each other in the political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres and also envisages future cooperation in military aspects.

The latter does not imply military assistance, aid with armaments. At point is the training of military personnel and cooperation in general issues of military construction. In addition to the treaty, the sides also signed 20 agreements covering all areas of life in the two independent states.

The two countries' leaders noted that they reached full mutual understanding on all issues discussed. "We praise the results of the talks and the documents signed because we regard Ukraine as a great state with a vast potential, which is to play an important role in building a new Europe," Shevardnadze stressed.

He also said he got Kravchuk's consent to help settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Both leaders observed that Georgia would have long since solved this problem by peaceful means but the third force which constantly builds up tension in the region stands in its way.

The two also discussed the possibility of setting up an oil concern to involve Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Iran. This idea could also attract industrialised European countries, Kravchuk believes. Its meaning is that oil pipelines running via Georgia could be used to deliver Iranian oil to Ukraine and farther to Europe. Iran, Azerbaijan and Ukraine have already given their consent to this plan. If Georgia joins this scheme, the partners could use a terminal in Poti from where oil will be supplied to Odessa by sea.

On relations with Russia, Kravchuk noted that there are three groups of problems in them. The first one is related with Crimea, Sevastopol and the Black Sea fleet. The second - approaches to strategic nuclear weapons on Ukraine's territory and the third problem is economic, it includes the service of the former Soviet Union's debt and mutual settlements. The Ukrainian president voiced confidence that all of them will be solved peacefully, through talks.

Kiev TV Reports on Visit

LD1304182993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The official visit to Ukraine of Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of the Georgian state, has ended. The signing of Ukrainian-Georgian documents took place in the Mariyinskiy Palace in Kiev today.

[Correspondent] The signing of a package of bilateral documents resulted from the coincidence of the points of view of Ukraine and Georgia on world processes, and on mutual relations between the two countries, which was manifested both during the private conversation between President Leonid Kravchuk and head of state Eduard Shevardnadze and at the talks between delegations.

Leonid Kravchuk and Eduard Shevardnadze signed a treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia. Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, and his counterpart Vakhtang Rcheulishhvili, deputy speaker of Georgia's Parliament, signed an agreement on cooperation between the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the Parliament of the Republic of Georgia. Some 20 documents, including agreements and protocols, embrace all fields of life—politics, economics, culture, and science.

Deputy Premier Viktor Pynzenyk and Premier Tengiz Sigua signed a whole package of inter-state documents, including a declaration on the basis of economic relations between Ukraine and Georgia. In this way international legal foundations for the further development of mutually advantageous bilateral relations have been laid. On their basis ministries, organizations, towns, and enterprises will be able to go over to establishing direct links.

This also concerns the sphere of foreign economic relations—Mykola Makarevych, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, signed the document—and also cooperation in sport, tourism, health protection, a non-visa regime and other issues within the scope of Ukrainian and Georgian customs, including blocking drug trafficking across the territory of the two states. A mixed Ukrainian-Georgian commission will be set up with the aim of implementing the accords reached.

An official send-off ceremony took place at the Mariyinskiy Palace today, the last day of the Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Ukraine. President Leonid Kravchuk and other officials of the two states took part in the ceremony. A guard of honour stood on the square by the Palace. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] A meeting of members of the Georgian delegation with Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine; Volodymyr

Hrynyov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council; and members of the Ukrainian Parliament Presidium took place this morning.

[Correspondent] Vasyl Durdynets told the guests about the work of the Supreme Council in setting up a legal basis for implementing the course toward the state independence of Ukraine, explained the transfer of part of parliament's authorities to the executive power, and acquainted them with the national policy directed at preserving stability in society. The prospects for developing Ukrainian- Georgian inter-parliamentary links and other issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The members of the state delegation of the Republic of Georgia laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Park of Glory, and comemorated the memory of soldiers who perished in the struggle against fascism, with a minute of silence. Eduard Shevardnadze and his party visited the state historical and architectural sanctuary of the Sofiya Museum today. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] A joint press conference was held in Kiev today by Presidents Eduard Shevardnadze and Leonid Kravchuk. The government delegation from Georgia left for home today.

Kravchuk, Shevardnadze View Regional Issues

OW1304191493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze declared at a press conference held on Tuesday [13 April] in Kiev that the Ukrainian-Georgian documents signed in Kiev encompassed all spheres of cooperation between two peoples. He emphasized that now Ukraine is playing "a special role" in the building of a new Europe. "Our positions have coincided because national interests of our peoples coincide as well," said Shevardnadze.

In Shevardnadze's words, the parties, in particular, were discussing the problem concerning construction of a gas main from Iran to Ukraine. Georgia proposed to create a concern made up of Azerbaijan, Iran, Georgia, and Ukraine for this purpose and to lay one of the gas main's branches to the Georgian port of Poti. Shevardnadze expressed opinion that European countries could join construction of the gas main as this way is much shorter and cheaper than from Tyumen.

Georgia, Shevardnadze noted, is also interested to participate in the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet division.

President Leonid Kravchuk agreed that Georgia should participate in such negotiations. He said that the major problem facing Ukraine now was the creation of its own fleet. "I thought that this process would go easier, the president underlined, I did not think that the other side, Russia, will present territorial claims."

"The demands to recognize Sevastopol as a Russian city are absolutely unacceptable," the Ukrainian President declared, "and Ukraine will never agree to this." The president also reported that the presidential Council of Defense had prepared "several changes" with respect to Ukraine's attitude towards this issue, but he did not clarified them.

Responding to the question on possible military assistance to Georgia, Kravchuk said that "the document speaks about mutual assistance as a whole." In Kravchuk's words, Ukraine has not found a form for the republic's participation in the solution of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict yet. He believes that Ukraine can be a mediator, as a member of the UN or CSCE, but it will not be "its private initiative."

Shevardnadze thanked Kravchuk for his wish to participate in the solution of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and underlined that Georgia was a country which practised neutrality. "We are not looking for weapons or markets to procure or sell arms, but I do not rule out cooperation in this sphere as well because any country needs defensive potential, at least at a minimum level," he said.

Commenting the problem of "a third force" in the Georgian- Abkhazian conflict, Shevardnadze said that he would not like to speak about any concrete people [as received]. "Totalitarian systems do not disappear tracelessly. It is necessary to go through several stages," said Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze Hopes for Cooperation

LD1304211293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1306 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trosenko; Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's comments read by announcer]

[Text] Kiev, 13 Apr—The second day of the official visit to Ukraine by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the parliament of the Republic of Georgia and head of state, began with a solemn ceremony of laying a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Eternal Glory Park. After this, a detailed exchange of opinions on the issues concerning parliamentary activities took place at the Supreme Soviet between the representative delegations of the two countries.

Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet, told the visitors about the role of the Ukrainian parliament in the implementation of interstate treaties and agreements. It was emphasized that the present staff of the parliament had approved a number of important legislative acts, directed towards creation of an independent Ukrainian state. However, Durdynets said, there are a few shortcomings in our work, as well as certain discord between the legislative and executive powers.

Shevardnadze, having thanked them for the interesting information, emphasized: For us, the experience of Ukraine in all spheres of the construction of the independent state is very important. We are also interested in the activity of the parliament, since today the role of the legislative body elected by the whole nation in all young states is increasing. It is very important that our new cooperation as sovereign states starts with impressive paces.

The head of the Georgian state said: I attach still greater importance to the documents which will be signed today. In the first instance to the principal treaty; I would call this step an historic one, since due to these documents our relations rise to a new level and acquire a legislative basis.

Shevardnadze informed the Ukrainian side about the difficulties which should be overcome on the way to building an independent Georgia. There is a difficult economical crisis in the country. The distinguished guest touched upon the situation in Abkhazia, underlining that the leadership of Georgia will strive to resolve this conflict by peaceful means.

During the meeting other issues of mutual interest were also touched upon. Participating in the meeting were Volodymyr Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, and the chairmen of a number of permanent commissions of the Supreme Soviet from the Ukrainian side. On the Georgian side, Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, deputy parliament speaker Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, and other officials attended.

Shevardnadze's Press Secretary Comments

LD1304140093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Talks between the delegations of Ukraine and Georgia will continue in Kiev today. Late last night we telephoned Revaz Egadze, press secretary for the Georgian head of state, who is accompanying Eduard Shevardnadze on this trip. We asked him to tell us about the first day of the talks:

[Begin recording] [Egadze] [passage omitted] Before the talks started, Shevardnadze and Kravchuk met in private for more than an hour. After that the official talks between the delegations started. [passage omitted]

Mr. Kravchuk expressed his satisfaction with the meeting. A new era is starting between the two states. Eduard Shevardnadze said that the fact that the Soviet Union collapsed and that bonds between the republics disappeared should not hamper our new relationship; on the contrary, the Georgian leader said, we must retain all the good that was in our relationship before and it should serve as the basis for our future cooperation. Leonid Kravchuk agreed to this.

Talks were then directed into a more concrete channel and a great number of issues, among them interethnic issues, were discussed. Economic cooperation was also discussed. [passage omitted] It is still early to talk about the results of the talks as agreements have not yet been signed. It was just the first part of these talks, but we can say that all that was expected to be done in one day has been done. At 1430 all the documents will be signed, and there are 21 agreements in all. [passage omitted]

There will be a joint news conference after the agreements are signed. I am stressing the word joint. Only Shevardnadze's news conference has been scheduled, but Leonid Kravchuk expressed a wish to take part in it. [passage omitted]

Kravchuk said that his participation in this news conference is crucial for the whole world to know that Georgia and Ukraine have an identical stance on the issues that concern not only Ukraine and Georgia but the whole world.

[Announcer] Has the issue of the conflict between the Georgians and the Abkhazian separatists been raised?

[Egadze] Yes, it has. [passage omitted] Mr. Shevardnadze suggested to the president of Ukraine that it participate in settling this conflict. It will be best if it is done under the auspices of the United Nations and Ukraine will have a relevant mandate from international organizations, in particular from the United Nations. It must be stressed that Leonid Kravchuk approved of this suggestion and said Ukraine would do its best to help Georgia settle this conflict. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kravchuk Criticizes Russian Command of Black Sea Fleet

LD1304170293

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1900 GMT on 12 April carries a two-minute report by correspondent Anatoliy Komirenko. An unidentified announcer states that the Black Sea Fleet issue continues to be a matter of concern for the people of Ukraine. Komirenko says that at the end of last week Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk gave his assessment of this issue at the meeting with Ukrainian scientists.

In a recording from the meeting, Kravchuk says: "In Yalta we signed the well-known Yalta agreement which touches upon the Black Sea Fleet. I am convinced at that time it was the only possible step to prevent confrontation of the Black Sea Fleet, within the Black Sea Fleet, and around the Black Sea Fleet. Because at that time they were already shooting, as you know. They were already shooting. Those were not just statements. It seems to me that we managed to stop all that, to introduce certain elements of tranquility."

Kravchuk continues: "Almost one year has passed since then but the problem is being tackled in a very bad manner. Sometimes it is being deliberately tackled this way, so that one side will bring the other side into a tough situation. I am not going to say that Ukraine comes out here as a constructive force only. But what is happening today in the fleet under the command of the Russian Defense Ministry—and I consciously emphasize this—this proves that no one reckons with the facts that the

fleet is in Ukraine and the land is ours; the coast is ours and the people who serve in the fleet are our people as well. No one reckons with this, because the fleet is completely financed at the expense of Ukraine and the fleet is commanded by the Russian Defense Ministry. Such is the situation.

"They tell us: Show patience, because no confrontation is needed. I also understand this. But there is a limit beyond which patience may be estimated as absence of principle or complete surrender as far as positions and agreements are concerned." The correspondent concludes by saying that the political leadership of the Russian Federation, which only recently pointed to the necessity of having the Black Sea Fleet under the subordination of both countries' presidents until the issue of its division is finally solved by Ukraine and Russia, must be the first to think through its actions properly."

Russia Allegedly Violating Black Sea Fleet Agreement

MK1304143593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 1

[Vladimir Skachko report: "Kiev Will Probably Denounce the Yalta Agreement. Fresh Twist to Spiral of Tension Around Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] According to reports, at the end of last week the Ukrainian National Assembly published documents proving the participation of Black Sea Fleet units and ships in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict on the side of Abkhazia without agreement from the Ukrainian side.

Dmitriy Korchinskiy, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian National Assembly, told journalists that copies of the documents had been sent to Georgia to be passed on to Eduard Shevardnadze and to be published in the Georgian mass media. "We do the latter to make it impossible for Shevardnadze to engage in horse-trading with Russia," Korchinskiy stated.

The very same documents were passed on by the Ukrainian National Assembly to Ukraine's Defense Ministry, following which the ministry adopted a statement on the possibility of Ukraine's unilateral denunciation of the Yalta agreement.

Parliamentary hearings were held in Ukraine's Supreme Soviet on questions of ratification by the Ukrainian parliament of START I treaty and Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. According to some deputies who wished to remain anonymous, these hearings are connected with the fact that, as rumor has it, the U.S. Administration declined contacts with representatives of the Ukrainian leadership until START I has been ratified and until Ukraine has acceded to the Nonproliferation Treaty. Besides, there is unofficial information that U.S. President Bill Clinton agreed during the Vancouver meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin that Russia should act as a guarantor of stability on the territory of the CIS.

According to the same deputies, it is the presence of this understanding that accounts for the sharp statement by the Russian Government of 5 April 1993 regarding nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine.

Later in the day, a letter to Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk was circulated which was signed by 87 people's deputies of Ukraine from practically all the parliament's political groupings and factions. In the document the deputies listed numerous cases of the Russian Defense Ministry's using the Black Sea Fleet and of unilateral control of the fleet without agreement with Ukraine. Among the facts cited is pay increases for Russia's personnel on service in the Black Sea Fleet (Ukrainian sailors did not have their pay raised.) According to the people's deputies, big assault landing ships—the Olshanskiy, Iliya Azarov, and Voronezhskiy Komsomolets—are being de-mothballed to be then redeployed in an unknown direction without any sanction from Ukraine's Defense Ministry.

The authors of the letter drew special attention to the employment of the Black Sea Fleet in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict on Abkhazia's side. The deputies stated that ships of the Black Sea Fleet turned over to Russian ground troops stationed near Gudauta fuel taken from Ukrainian depots that was needed by Ukraine itself.

The deputies also argue that Colonel General Kontratiyev, Russian first deputy defense minister, ordered the combat ship Bezukoriznennyy to employ any means including the use of weapons in order to prevent Georgian troops from landing near the town of Gagry.

The authors of the letter informed the president of the fact that a conference on 26 March 1993 at Black Sea Fleet headquarters considered a question of not allowing the presence of Ukrainian officers in the fleet's formations, to which effect a corresponding order was issued, and on 27 March Black Sea marines were put on heightened alert. According to the deputies, they have information that the antisubmarine ship Krasnyy Kavkaz, the tankers Mizen and Iman, and others, have been sent to the area of the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict to ship fuel.

Proceeding from this, the Ukrainian people's deputies argue that far from being honored, the Yalta agreement is being deliberately and crudely violated by Russia.

According to the deputies, all the facts cited call for immediate investigation and measures to be taken by the president of Ukraine, who is also commander-in-chief of the republic's Armed Forces.

"We are convinced that in the situation that has taken shape in the Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine's continued presence in the Yalta agreement is not only pointless but also harmful to the interests of our state."

Negotiator Says Tension With Russia 'Artificially Maintained'

OW1304174093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a briefing in Kiev on April 13 Vladimir Belashov, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's department on disarmament and control over arms, declared that the tension with respect to the division of the Black Sea Fleet between Ukraine and Russia was being artificially maintained at the negotiations.

In Belashov's opinion, "the negotiations were constructively held on April 10 at the 12th meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations." In particular, the parties discussed an issue on a joint Black Sea Fleet command, on financing and staffing the fleet over the transition period.

Ukraine is keeping to a principal position, Belashov underlined, as, firstly, foreign forces cannot stay on the republic's territory, and, secondly, everything situated on the republic's territory is property of the republic.

As Russia is a power with access to the Black Sea, "Ukraine has voluntarily agreed to divide floating vehicles, combat ships, and that is all." The issues concerning coastal facilities can be solved only on the basis of an agreement on their rent.

According to Belashov, at the negotiations the delegations have paid much attention to solve the provision on joint Black Sea Fleet command. He reported that this provision had been agreed and was due to be submitted to the presidents for signing.

Belashov said that one should not dramatize the situation surrounding the the Black Sea Fleet and underlined that, according to agreements reached earlier, negotiations on the fleet's division are to be concluded by 1995.

Mentioning the demands of several deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to denounce the Yalta agreements, Belashov declared in his interview with Interfax that it was non-constructive to return to the pre-Yalta situation. He emphasized that all the unsolved issues would be presented to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents for consideration and they were to adopt the final decision.

The next round of negotiations is to take place in a month. The delegations are expected to discuss issues related to the order of military service, principles and mechanisms to divide the fleet.

Documents Drafted at Talks With Russia on Black Sea Fleet

LD1304191993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A regular round of Ukrainian-Russian talks at interstate level on problems of the Black Sea Fleet has been held in Moscow. Volodymyr Kryzhanivskyy, Ukraine ambassador to the Russian Federation, told journalists that the sides have coordinated a number of draft documents, which are to be handed over later for examination by the Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin. Positions regarding the joint command, technical and accommodation provisions, the procedure for forming the personnel of the Black Sea Fleet, and what is no less important, settlement of the financial problems of the Fleet, were formulated in the documents. It was decided that a version of a treaty which suits both Russia and Ukraine will be firmed up during this week.

Further on Parliamentary Speaker's Visit to China

Chinese Official Sees Potential for Cooperation

LD1304143393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The potential of cooperation between China and Ukraine in trade, economy and other spheres is large. Both countries have much in common, declared today chairman of the Standing Committee of the All China Congress of People's Representatives, Qiao Shi during his meeting with Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Assembly] of Ukraine, Ivan Plyushch, who arrived in the People's Republic of China at the head of a representative delegation of Ukrainian parliamentarians. China is interested in the preservation of stability in Ukraine and success of its reforms, said Qiao Shi, who also occupies a high party post of member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. In his opinion, Ukraine is currently experiencing certain difficulties, however, believes the chairman of the Chinese Parliament, the republic possesses good agricultural and industrial bases which allows to settle many problems. On his part, Ivan Plyushch declared that Kiev intends to borrow the development experience from Beijing and that the parliaments of both countries will strengthen their contacts.

Delegation Meets PRC's Rong Yiren

LD1304200193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting has taken place in Beijing between Rong Yiren, vice president of the PRC, and a delegation from the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine headed by Chairman Ivan Plushch. The conversation was mainly concerned with deepening Ukrainian-Chinese interstate relations. The Ukrainian parliamentarians were also interested in the way that relations are taking shape between the legislative and executive branches of power in the PRC.

National Affairs

Kuchma's Parliament Speech Addresses Economic Situation

MK1404081093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Vladimir Skachko report published in "Ukraine" column: "Soon There Will Be No One to Whom To Offer Social Protection. Leonid Kuchma Favors Joint Anti-Crisis Actions of President, Parliament, Government"]

[Text] For three days Supreme Soviet deputies have discussed a draft state budget and a draft plan for Ukraine's development in 1993.

As expected, the deputies' opinion divided sharply: from demands that the budget be adopted immediately to a total rejection of these documents.

Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma made a closing speech. He said that the economic situation in the course of building an independent Ukraine has shown that first, "in dividing up the Union ship, we have ended up with that part of it that never had a rudder, and second, the level of social security, traditional for socialism, is hard to ensure in the absence of mineral resources which, as a result of the division of the ship, remained in that part thereof where the rudder used to be." In this situation, according to Kuchma, the Ukrainian parliament should strive to restore the vertical axis of administration and also to merge flexibly the system of social guarantees with tough market incentives for work for all able-bodied members of society.

Leonid Kuchma revealed that in the course of its activities, the Ukrainian Government has somewhat stabilized the economic situation in the country, suspending the inflationary drop of the coupon [Ukrainian temporary currency] and sharply slowing down the fall in production, compared with last year. Kuchma stated that in January and February the drop of output volume in Ukraine amounted to 5.4 percent (17.2 percent in 1992), while in Russia this indicator over the same time is nearly 30 percent.

Proceeding from this, Kuchma noted a few basic trends in the evolution of the Ukrainian economy. First, its direct dependence on factors of foreign economic interaction. "Total dependence in this respect on Russia is becoming a key factor in Ukraine's economic development," Leonid Kuchma said, adding that Ukraine, being linked with Russia by a mechanism of settlements in the shape of ruble clearing procedures, is importing inflation from Russia. "We could somewhat influence the development of the situation when the main factor in our relations was economic interests and economic logic. Today our relations with Russia are determined by political factors conditioned by the domestic situation in Russia. The Cabinet of Ministers cannot resolve the problems of Ukrainian-Russian contacts on its own," Leonid Kuchma summed up, stating that the prices for Russian energy will grow, approximating world prices, and therefore the economic situation in Ukraine will worsen. According to Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine will need $13 billion to purchase 40 million tonnes of oil and 100 million cubic meters of natural gas. The Ukrainian Government has to pay 446 billion rubles every month to Russia for its energy supplies, while the Ukrainian national Bank has no such funds.

Summing up the situation, the premier called on the deputies to stop indulging in social demagogy and to understand that Ukraine in on the verge of a large-scale social upheaval.

Kuchma described the extensive nature of economic development as its national characteristic. According to the premier, the value of the republic's imports exceeds the value of its exports by $550 million. Leonid Kuchma added that Ukraine has used the last source of economic development—low prices—and as a result of transition to world prices its products will automatically become uncompetitive.

Another trend, according to Kuchma, is the growing politicization of the economy and a link between the economic crisis and the political crisis, which manifests itself in the ungovernability of the economy and in the managers' corporate egoism. Leonid Kuchma said that so far he cannot influence state enterprise managers as a premier, but has to come to terms with them on the basis of personal good relations and separate contacts. "It seems to me that not only the church has become separate from the state in this country, but also industry and individual oblasts and rayons," the premier noted, stating that the government has virtually exhausted its potential for stabilizing the situation by macroeconomic methods. Therefore, according to Kuchma, the Supreme Soviet and the presidential structures must work together with the government.

Leonid Kuchma complained about the systemic imbalance that has manifested itself in the existence of several, often directly opposite, directions of economic policy, and also in the fact that production is oriented toward its own interests and not toward the interests of the consumer.

Kuchma said that having analyzed the production decline, the government came to the conclusion that it is 35 percent conditioned by the breakup of traditional economic ties, and 65 percent by the absence of effective management, and of labor and executive discipline and by the corporate egoism of the monopolists. "We have totally forgotten that wages need to be earned, effectively turning them into a tax that the unprofitable enterprises are imposing on the state," Kuchma said, adding that either everybody will be working together to salvage the economy or in a year there will be no one to provide social protection and no one to provide it for.

Describing the general economic situation in the CIS, Leonid Kuchma said that at present all the Commonwealth countries have entered the final stage of the disintegration of the Union economy and of the financial

system of the former USSR. "The situation is dramatic, and therefore it calls for a commensurate response both at the conceptual and the organizational level.

"Real life demands a full-fledged social regime of economic administration involving the participation and responsibility of all the top state leaders and the involvement of all state bodies. This should be a large-scale, statewide action and the parliament should provide legislative underpinning for it. This regime is vital to prevent a total social catastrophe," the prime minister said.

On 9 April at a morning session the parliamentarians adopted a law on the Ukrainian state budget and a decree on putting this law into effect.

Foreign Ministry Briefing on Nuclear Disarmament

LD1304224093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Conversion of the nuclear complex sphere is politically and economically advantageous to all states. This was stated at today's briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The ministry's representative, Volodymyr Bilashov, emphasized that Ukraine has not rejected its strategic course of becoming a nonnuclear state in the future. At the same time, he stressed that the processes of nuclear reduction and disarmament should embrace all those who are in possession of them.

The diplomat acknowledged that pressure is being put on Ukraine on these issues. But, according to him, in spite of this we must study the nuclear problem from all sides, taking into account economic expediency and the interests of one's own national security.

Kravchuk Appoints Bannikov Economics Minister

LD1304172893 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a decree about the Ukraine minister of the economy. In particular it says: Yuriy Oleksandrovych Bannikov is appointed minister of economy of Ukraine, releasing Viktor Mykhaylovych Pynzenyk from this post. Viktor Pynzenyk has been released from the post in connection with the necessity of concentrating efforts on implementing economic reform.

'Tension' Growing Among Servicemen at Air Regiment

LD1304182593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1625 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov, 13 Apr—There has been a sharp growth in tension in Ukraine's heavy-bomber aviation regiment in the town of Belaya Tserkov. Before the end of May the unit will be reformed, but the fate of the military pilots is still unknown. In conditions of an information vacuum, the servicemen are calling for an armed rally to be held, the newspaper KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI reports. The issues of sovereignty and the sharing of military property have prevented Ukraine from maintaining the seven existing aerodromes and the units affiliated to them.

In accordance with a decree of Ukraine Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov, the Belaya Tserkov regiment is the first to be reformed. Experienced professional airmen are faced with mass lay-offs, having received neither housing nor sufficient pay during their years of service. Many have not served long enough to receive their pensions. Not a single leader has met with his personnel in the face of such lamentable prospects or has resolved the problems that have accumulated.

One of these problems is a professional one. Since last September the pilots have hardly flown at all, even though there are sufficient fuel reserves. The opinion has been created among the officers that a purposeful policy is being conducted, which is aimed at lowering their flying qualifications.

Following the official announcement of the reforming of the unit, military property is being pilfered. A unique aviation base that was created over a number of years has become the object of trading by various commercial structures. It is not only territory that they are sharing, but people as well. The servicemen are at breaking point.

The Ukraine Defense Ministry has adopted a decision on closing three of the seven existing heavy-bomber air units. The experience of the Belaya Tserkov long-distance aviation regiment shows that, if the process of reforming goes ahead without due concern for the people, a social explosion in the army is inevitable.

Belarus

Shushkevich To Sign CIS Treaty; May Resign

MK1304091493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report under "Belarus" rubric: "Shushkevich Will Sign CIS Collective Security Treaty and, Perhaps, Resign"]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision to entrust parliament head Stanislav Shushkevich with "signing the collective security treaty concluded in Tashkent 15 May 1992, with a statement of corresponding reservations." These reservations must exclude the use of the Belarusian Armed Forces on the territory of other states and the stationing and use of other states' armed forces on the republic's territory without the sanction of the Belarusian parliament. Amendments to the treaty will be examined at the time of its ratification.

Stanislav Shushkevich stated his disagreement with the decision of parliament but said that he will sign the treaty. Before ratification, on his initiative, a referendum must be held on the question: "Do you consider it necessary for the Republic of Belarus to be a neutral state and not enter into military alliances with other states or associations of states?" "If the people advocate collective security, I will resign," the head of the republic declared. He also promised to lay down his powers as a deputy if his electoral district comes out against neutrality. The question of a referendum will be decided finally at the next session of parliament, which will begin 18 May.

The results of the parliamentary vote showed that Belarus intends to orient itself toward Russia. Representatives of the Belarusian Government do not conceal this, not forgetting to mention that Russia accounts for approximately 70 percent of the republic's foreign trade turnover.

Nikolay Skorynin, the premier's adviser, declared at a news conference that entry into the system of CIS collective security will make it possible to resume military orders in Belarusian enterprises. The premier's adviser assumed that, after Belarus joins the collective security system, Russia will abolish customs duties on oil exports to the republic and will restore most-favored-nation status in trade with Belarus.

Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy declared that joining the collective security system will facilitate military technical cooperation with Russia. In his opinion, if Belarus does not join the CIS collective security system, "we will simply lose the army and, with it, the state." In answer to a question about what Russia is reckoning on getting from Belarus after it joins the collective security system, the defense minister replied that it could be a question of exchanging information and uniting the air defense systems.

Suggests Referendum on Neutrality

WS0904135093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by Mikhail Rudkovskiy]

[Text] [Rudkovskiy] Legislators continued debates on a very important issue: that of Belarus joining the system of joint security. The atmosphere in the session hall was very tense. After the discussion of miscellaneous issues, the Supreme Soviet chairman took the floor. He proved to be loyal to his idea.

[Begin Shushkevich recording] In compliance with the Belarusian Law on Referendum, I request that the Supreme Soviet of the Belarusian Republic adopt a decision to conduct a national referendum on the status of Belarusian neutrality in May 1993. I suggest that the following question be included on the ballot: Do you support Belarusian neutrality which envisions nonparticipation of Belarus in any military unions with other states or their alliances? [passage indistinct] It is time to ask people what to do. [end recording]

[Rudkovskiy] Then, deputies began the discussion of the draft resolution on the chairman's [31 March] speech. Prior to this, Zenon Paznyak circulated the text of the following amendment: The draft resolution confirms the Republic's striving for neutrality, outlined by the constitution and the Declaration on Sovereignty. Thus, deputies had to consider two draft resolutions: the official draft resolution elaborated by the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the alternate, suggested by the opposition. Discussions flared up with regard to Stanislav Shushkevich's political report. Deputy Starynin suggested that Shushkevich's report be declared unsatisfactory. Left and right forces at the legislature clashed. However, Deputy Starynin's amendment failed to acquire the needed number of votes. Deputy Smolyar said that the situation resembled political games.

[Smolyar, in Russian] I would like to say that we should solve the economic problems of our people, give our people hope, and show that we care for them. When I hear people say that the joint security is a military political pact, and that our children will have to go and shed their blood for somebody's interests, I want to say that this is twisting the facts.

[Rudkovskiy] What is your attitude towards Shushkevich's idea of a referendum?

[Smolyar] My stance is this—I am not afraid of these referendums. However, I do not think that the deputies should shift the heavy burden of responsibility on the people's backs and lie in wait. Once they said that they will secure the people's interests. Now, when the time of decisions has come, they would like to evade responsibility. I will surely vote for joint security. I think that if Shushkevich really needs this referendum, I will not object to holding it before the ratification and listening to the voice of the people. Look how left and right

extremists are fighting. Some of them want to overthrow Kebich, others want to overthrow Shushkevich. They do this to keep the Republic in a political trance.

[Rudkovskiy] Why do deputies create tension?

[Smolyar] Every session is a political contest. I think this is normal. I only find it wrong to draw people in this discussion. These are only personal ambitions.

Supreme Soviet Appeals to CIS To Fulfill Agreements

LD0904161893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk April 9 TASS—The Supreme Soviet of Belarus has adopted on Friday an address to parliaments and leaders of states and governments of the Commonwealth.

The document says that over a year and a half has passed since the time of the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. A new specific inter-state entity has emerged in the world. Its participants have been paying great attention to forming new economic and political relations amongst themselves. Agreements have been concluded both within the framework of the Commonwealth and between individual states of the commonwealth.

Taking all this into consideration, the Supreme Soviet of Belarus appeals to parliaments, leaders of states and governments of the commonwealth with a proposal to assess the results of the implementation of the earlier concluded agreements and carry out specific measures to fulfil the assumed obligations.

Social Democratic Assembly Condemns Joint Security Decision

WS1304134893 Minsk RID in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The declaration adopted at a session of the Executive Committee of the Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly Central Council says: "Legislators' support of the decision to join the joint security pact will in fact be a display of anti-national policy. This will definitively be viewed as a betrayal of the current and future generations of Belarusians."

Social democrats predict that Belarus will inevitably lose its prestige in the international arena because of signing the treaty. In the Central Council's view, the revision of the military doctrine four months after its adoption by the Supreme Soviet will cast doubt on both the consistency and steadiness of Belarusian foreign policy and the Republic's readiness to carry out its commitments.

Shuskevich Signs Supreme Council Decree on Customs Tariff

WS1304143293 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 19 Mar 93 p 6

[Decree of the Belarusian Supreme Council "On implementation of the law of the Republic of Belarus on customs tariff" issued in Minsk on 3 February 1993]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council **decrees**:

1. To enact the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On customs tariff" from the day of its publication.

2. In order to bring the legislation of the Republic of Belarus into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On customs tariff" the legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus are used because they do not contradict the given law.

3. To charge the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers within three months:

—to submit to the Belarusian Supreme Council proposals on bringing the Belarusian legislation in conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On customs tariff";

—to bring the decrees of the Belarusian government in conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On customs tariff" and ensure that Belarusian ministries, state committees, and departments revise and repeal their normative acts including instructions contradicting the given law.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 3 February 1993

No 2150-XII.

Trade Union Supports Economic Integration Within CIS

WS1404090993 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Belarusian Trade Union Federation has supported the Supreme Soviet's resolution on the necessity of holding negotiations with CIS members interested in economic integration and the creation of an economic union. In the federation's opinion, the union should stabilize the economy, restore economic relations, and prevent a further drop in production. At the same time, the federation emphasizes that the economic union must not harm the sovereignty, independence, and living standards of the Belarusian people.

Armed Forces To Be Reduced by 24 Percent This Year

WS1304141993 Minsk RID in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] An RID correspondent has been told at the Belarusian Armed Forces Staff that in accordance with the Supreme Soviet's resolution and the national military doctrine, the reform of the Armed Forces is currently under way. It is being carried out according to a plan, stage by stage. Before the end of 1993, army personnel will be reduced by 24.3 percent. Thus, the total strength of Belarusian Armed Forces will be about 98,000 men.

The military reform is a costly undertaking. This year it will swallow 3.3 billion rubles.

Defense Minister Comments on Military Doctrine

WS1304080093 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 23 Mar 93 pp 1,3

["Text" of report by Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy, Belarusian defense minister, delivered at a meeting of chairmen of local executive councils on 19 March: "On Military Doctrine and Reforms of the Armed Forces"]

[Text] Comrades!

As you know, the 10th session of the Belarus Supreme Soviet adopted the state military doctrine on 16 December 1992. It was truly a historical event. For the first time in Belarusian history, a system of basic concepts on the prevention of war, the maintenance of peace, the construction of the defense system, the Belarusian Armed Forces readiness to repel aggression, and the military means of protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belarus was outlined.

Our military doctrine has a defensive character and is aimed at the strengthening of international detente. Considering its strategic and geographic features, Belarus is pursuing an independent course in military policy and wants to acquire the status of a neutral, nonnuclear state.

At the same time, the military doctrine allows for armed neutrality and cooperation with other countries in the event of an aggression.

These provisions are based on the Declaration of the Belarusian state sovereignty and demonstrates readiness to protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The thesis on cooperation with the other states in matters of defense is not a retreat from our policy of neutrality as it may appear at the first glance. Only in the case of danger, when the Republic lacks human and material resources for repulsing an armed intervention, it has the right to conclude international treaties and agreements to repel aggression.

The Belarusian military doctrine has two aspects: military-political and military-technical.

The military-political aspect includes provisions "On the prevention of war" and "On stopping aggression." The military-technical aspect includes provisions "On deterrence" and "On active defense."

I would like to describe these provisions in detail.

The provisions "On the prevention of war" which represent a set of views on means and methods of eliminating the conditions leading to the outbreak of a war foresee:

— the elimination of contradictions which arise via peaceful political-diplomatic means;

— the refusal to use military force;

— the strengthening of the UN role in solving the issues of joint security.

The provisions "On prevention of war" also include the principles of:

— complete and unconditioned ban on the deployment of nuclear weapons;

— the elimination of the Belarusian territory from the plansfor military actions of other countries;

— the nonparticipation in outside military conflicts unless sanctioned by the UN;

— the refusal to allow the use of Belarusian territory for the deployment of troops and military bases of other countries.

The provisions "On stopping aggression" represent a set of views on defense and the repelling of aggression by a variety of political, economic, diplomatic, and military measures.

This concept includes compulsory economic and diplomatic sanctions designed to force the aggressor state to stop waging war on Belarus. These measures include the breaking of economic and diplomatic relations, and coordination of efforts with all UN members.

This concept also includes the principle of using the Armed Forces to prevent violations of Belarusian air space and to deter aggression in the event that other nonmilitary means had failed.

The provisions "On deterrence" represent the military-technical aspect of our military doctrine. It is represented by a set of views on the status and deployment of the Russian Federation's Strategic Forces which are temporarily stationed on Belarusian territory. The essence of this concept is presented by the principles of stability and response.

The Strategic Forces of the Russian Federation which are temporarily stationed on the Belarusian territory are providing military and strategic stability for Belarus.

The Republic of Belarus has the right to make decisions on the expediency of taking advantage of their military capabilities.

When the Strategic Forces of the Russian Federation are transferred from the Belarusian territory, the concept "On deterrence" should be radically changed or withdrawn.

Now, for the provisions of "On active defense;" they are represented by a set of views on:

— the construction of the Belarusian Armed Forces;

— their preparedness for repelling possible aggression;

— the development of the means and methods of conducting military actions;

— military-technical policy within the framework of reasonable defense.

Principles of cooperation, creation of the national Armed Forces and mobile defense units make up the essence and content of this provision. Cooperation is conducted on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements on the development and purchase of arms and military technology, training, and the development of the defense infrastructure.

The principle of creating the national Armed Forces foresees:

— the centralization of state defense leadership;

— single command based on legal provisions;

— a balanced development of branches of the Armed forces with priority for the defense units;

— the capability for appropriate buildup of combat strengthin the face of a military threat.

Finally, one more important principle in the concept of "On the active defense." I mean the principle of the mobile defense. It foresees the creation of a small but effective military force capable of being deployed to the threatened region. Accordingly, the Belarusian Ground Troops are to include the following:

— rapid reaction force capable of being deployed to different regions to repel aggression;

— mobile forces (created according to the principle of rapid reaction forces) capable of being deployed in any region in the shortest possible time, and able to conduct military operations in conflicts of varying intensity alongside regular forces;

— military reserve to be deployed during war to repel large- scale military aggression.

The criteria of the principle of defense capability for ground troops foresees the creation of military units which together with mobile forces and the reserve will be capable of repelling aggression or localizing (stopping) the military conflict on conditions favorable for the Republic.

As you see, the military doctrine depicts:

— the attitude of the state toward war, and the use of the military forces;

— the national interests of the Republic and the factors contradicting such interests;

— the type, scope and the possibility of military threat;

— the possibility of war, measures for the prevention of war, and the means used to achieve this purpose.

The peace loving policy of the Republic of Belarus forms the basis of the military and political aspect of the military doctrine. Its key provisions are that Belarus:

— does not impose its ideology on other countries;

— recognizes the preservation of peace as a priority goal;

— rejects war and aggression toward its neighbors;

— stands for peaceful solution of conflicts.

The most difficult of these is the issue of the definition of the national (state) interests of the Republic. On a regional level, Belarus is interested in:

— the progressive development of all European countries;

— the strengthening of economic, political, cultural,scientific, and other ties with all neighboring countries;

— the participation in the existing international and regional organizations (as a UN member,) and fostering the

strengthening of world peace and stability;

— the creation a world order based on finding solutionsto pressing issues within the framework of the UN, ratherthan the dictatorship of some countries over other.

Any attempts to disregard the political, economic, scientific, and cultural development of Belarus, to develop anti-Belarusian military and political views will be considered detrimental to the Belarusian national interests.

The geographic and political features of Belarus will deeply influence its security. That is why, peaceful contacts with all neighboring countries and all European countries correspond with Belarusian national interests.

Belarus (as member of CIS) includes the CIS and Russia, first of all, in the sphere of its vital interests. Relations the CIS and Russia are of primary importance in the political, economic, and military spheres, despite the fact that Belarus is not a signatory to the treaty on the system of joint system.

The attempts, by some domestic forces, to artificially spread nationalistic ideas can destabilize international relations and harm the interests of Belarus.

Other issues influence our national interests.

I must mention that large countries have a powerful military potential. Despite reductions in quantity, the quality of military equipment is being upgraded. It is not excluded that military force can be used for solving the contradictions. The war in the Persian Gulf serves as a good example.

The Belarusian military doctrine pays attention to the possibility of local wars and low intensity military conflicts. According to Western and Belarusian experts, these types of military actions are the most probable. The possibility of unleashing another world war is very low, however, this does not mean that it may be dropped from the agenda.

The solution to various issues directly depends on the numerical strength, makeup, and organizational structure of the Armed Forces. The military doctrine makes a direct connection between these factors and the economic possibilities, as well as the principle of reasonable defense capability. The defense capability is proportional to the strength of the Armed Forces, which is in turn proportional to the degree of military threat: The force needed to rebuff the aggressor and the deployment of his forces on the territory of the Republic.

According to the provisions of the Belarusian military doctrine and the decree of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, the Belarusian Armed forces are undergoing reforms. Reductions and reform of the Army management and the Army structure is being carried out according to plan. The first period of the buildup of the Belarusian Armed Forces (1992) is over. I will give you the results.

According to the plan, the number of personnel in formations, units, and military institutions has been decreased.

We have already elaborated the concept of consolidating Air Force units within air bases; a new air base has already been formed.

A number of military units and institutions of certain branches of the Armed Forces and special forces have either disbanded or undergone a reduction in staff.

So, after the first period of the buildup of the Belarusian Armed Forces, the numerical strength of the Army has decreased by 20.6 percent, including 20 percent of officers and 17.6 percent of warrant officers.

By the beginning of the second period of reforms, the numerical strength of the armed forces has been decreased from 130,000 to 115,000 men.

The second period of reforms of the Armed Forces will take place during 1993.

In all, the number of personnel in the Armed Forces will be reduced by 24.3 percent if compared with the number of personnel on 1 January 1993.

Thus, the manpower of the Belarusian Armed Forces will make up 87,000 personnel.

Implementation of these decisions will demand considerable effort. For example, we will have to remove more that 23,000 units of arms and materiel and about 50,000 tones of material resources. We will need motor and railway transportation. In addition, we will have to build additional depots for keeping materiel and material resources.

For transporting materiel we will need more than 1,000 tonnes of gasoline, 3,669 tonnes of diesel oil, and 149 tonnes of aviation kerosene. Production areas of the existing warehouses are not sufficient for keeping the materiel. The low demand for the obsolete technology leads to its accumulation in the depots and warehouses. As a result, we witness delays in acceptance of the materiel from the disbanded units and a disruption of the terms of their sale.

We have difficulties in staff issues as well.

Only warrant officers (from all the officers and warrant officers to be transferred to the reserve or dismissed in connection with the reduction of the Army strength) will get new appointments. But we lack positions for 1,758 officers who performed service within the Belarusian Armed Forces.

In addition, we expect that 4,456 officers (117 graduates of Military Academies, 2,716 graduates of Military High Schools, and 1,623 officers currently performing their military service outside of Belarus) will arrive in Belarus during 1993. We prognosticate that by 1 January 1994 the Belarusian Army will have 1,820 officers without appointments.

The issue of Army reduction involves the issue of solving the housing problem.

Currently, 3,528 servicemen (2,337 officers and 1,191 warrant officers] who are under reduction do not have housing. But the total number of Belarusian servicemen without housing amounts to 11,728 persons.

We are planning to build 5,466 apartments (2,861 apartments will be built by the Defense Ministry; 227 apartments, by shareholders; 2,378 apartments, by foreign investors). In my opinion, we should investigate additional sources for housing construction.

We will have to adopt a number of measures for the retraining and reemployment of those servicemen who are being transferred to the reserve. We will have to obligate the ministries, departments and institutions to create additional working places.

One hundred fifty-nine former servicemen became members of the newly created Belarusian Center for the

Reeducation and Reemployment of Servicemen. We will spend more than 40.5 billion rubles [R] for their nine-month training course.

Branches of this center will be opened in the oblast cities and at several large barracks.

We are planning to create a department for retraining of servicemen within the Academy for Administration at the Council of Ministers of Belarus.

The total costs for retraining servicemen in the five branches of the center for reeducation and reemployment, and for administration of the state system of employment will demand an additional investment of R12 million.

We will have to implement some measures for the improvement of health care for servicemen who are subject to personnel reduction measures. We plan the expansion of the Lepel military sanatorium and the construction of at least one holiday house (the costs will amount to R200 million rubles). We will need additional expenditures for buying medical equipment, technology, and medicines for military hospitals.

In connection with the urgent disbanding of units, we have experienced serious difficulties with the maintenance of unused cantonments. Their sale or transfer to local administration does not always coincide with the terms of disbandment of military units. As a result, the cantonments become ownerless for some time.

We have adopted decisions on the use of almost all the objects of the Army. The next step will be to adopt decisions on the further use of the objects which presently belong to the Strategic Forces.

In all, the 1993 costs for military reform will make up R3.3 billion.

The military school is also being subjected to reform.

We have only two specialized higher military institutes. Thus, we have started looking for ways to train officers in the Republic. We have developed a list of the number of military specialists that we will need in the new Belarusian Army. We have also considered the officers and students who will arrive in Belarus from military higher institutions of the other CIS countries and from the "hotspots."

Mainly, we will train military specialists in the Republic. Thus, some high schools will be restructured: the High Command School will prepare specialists in all the commanding specialities for the whole Army, for the Border Troops, and for the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the High Engineer School will train specialists in 24 engineering fields. In 1993, the number of recruited students will make up 620 persons, which equals 84 percent of the Republican year requirement in officers.

This fundamental restructuring of high schools demands a lot of thorough work for the recruitment of a highly qualified teaching staff, an upgrading of facilities, and development of new educational programs.

We are planning to open a new department to train military aircraft mechanics within Minsk Aviation Technical College. We are planning to recruit lawyers, psychologists, doctors, translators, and other specialists from high school graduates who have had specialized training at the military departments within their schools.

In 1993, we will send 109 persons from our Republic to Russia to undergo military training in 17 specialized fields. Fifty-five Belarusian officers will continue their education at Russian military academies.

Military science is an important sphere of Army reform. It forms the systemic knowledge of the laws and types of wars, the buildup and training of the Armed Forces, the preparation of the country and the army for military actions, the methods of military operations, etc. Can we develop military science in the Republic if we have only one research institute for automation, a number of civil scientific organizations, and high school deparatments dealing with research in the sphere of electronics and cybernetics? Of course, not. We need a well organized system of scientific organizations able to make scientifically based conclusions and recommendations on the issues of the development of arms and technology and all strata of army issues.

We should also regulate the relationships between the Defense Ministry, research institutes of the Academy of Sciences, and industrial enterprises. This measure will help to vitalize the development of the military science.

There is great deal of work to be done for:

—developing and implementing programs for the delivery ofscientific-technical production;

—establishing fruitful, stable ties with the industrialenterprises of the other CIS countries in the sphere of mutual deliveries and sales of scientific-technological production.The Defense Ministry cannot provide the Belarusian scientific- technological complex with orders; therefores it cannot stop the further decline of the defense industry and defense science. We need emergency measures to stimulate their development.

We have virtally just one indicator of the course of the reforms. This is the indicator of the strength of the Armed Forces adopted by the Supreme Soviet, which is 100,000 servicemen, or up to 1 percent of the total population. This is the level of defense sufficiency, and it is adopted by almost all the countries, including the neutral ones.

We regard the Armed Forces of the parties as the bare and essential element for mutual deterrence of war.

Moldova

President Supports Parliament Plan on Dniester Situation

OW1204164493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview to national television on Monday [12 April], the President Mircea Snegur, supported the declaration of Presidium of Parliament on regulating the problem of the Dniester area. According to the head of state nobody in Chisinau intends "to unleash a new armed conflict in Dniester." In addition, M. Snegur said that the President and Parliament had a single position on this question.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In a declaration which was published on Wednesday, the presidium of parliament disproved the mass-media statements coming from the left bank area, that Moldova equipped its army with the new military equipment in order to renew the armed conflict.

M. Snegur also called for the inhabitants of Dniester "not to believe in the fables that the national army was equipping up to teeth, and the main reason for Moldova to become a member of NATO was the intention to destroy the villages and the population of the left bank of Dniester." The President asserted that "all efforts of Moldova's leadership are aimed at preventing more bloodshed."

Discusses Dniester Issue, 14th Army Withdrawal

AU1404070093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has granted an interview to our special correspondent in Chisinau, Calin Petrescu.

Concerning the solving of the problems of the Dniester region and the elimination of tension, Snegur said:

[Begin Snegur recording] Concerning the solution of those problems, the initiative is in the hands of the leadership of the Republic of Moldova. Both our executive and law-making bodies are currently working on that issue. For instance, Moldova's Parliament in its latest session set up a new parliamentary commission related to that issue.

In our opinion, the Dniester issue could be solved if we would grant a special juridical statute to that region that is part of the Republic of Moldova. That statute would grant them generous local self-administration terms and establish central and local executive competences.

We are currently working on the basic principles according to which we should solve that problem. The practical solutions offered by the two sides differ because the Tiraspol leaders insist on being granted a much too high degree of autonomy and are constantly suggesting the idea of turning Moldova into a confederate state.

The position of the Gagauz leaders in the southern regions is completely different, in the sense that we are very close to reaching a compromise under the terms I already mentioned.

As to the fourth round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations concerning the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, I could assert that so far those talks consisted of each party reiterating his former positions. Moscow recently issued a statement saying that those troops are to be withdrawn only after the status of the Russian ethnic population becomes clear. I do not believe they meant the Russian population in Moldova, but rather the Russian ethnics living in the so-called autonomous Dniester republic.

That Russian stand concurs with the 14th Army officers' reluctance to leave, since they would have no living quarters and other such necessary circumstances if they were withdrawn.

If we want to bolster those negotiations, then I think we will have to urgently solve the Dniester problem. It is my firm belief that if the Dniester region's status is established, then the withdrawal of the 14th Army will also occur more rapidly. Considering the fact that the 14th Army is relatively small, I think that we could finally reach an agreement with President Yeltsin concerning its withdrawal. [end recording]

Talks on 14th Army Withdrawal Extended

LD1304123493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The talks on the status of the 14th Army and the terms of its withdrawal from the territory of the Dniester region of Moldova are to be extended. Journalists were told this by Anatoliy Kruchin, an adviser on military issues of the unrecognized Dniester Moldovan Republic [DMR]. He recalled that the talks between Russia, DMR, and Moldova started last November and were resumed in April. Three articles from the agreement were discussed but not one of them was adopted. The Russian delegation's position, Kruchin noted, involves an attempt to find a way towards political, economic, and military cooperation with both Moldova and the DMR, on whose territory the 14th Army is stationed. This was reported by Olvia-Press.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Comments on Economic Development Strategy

LD1304174993 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] According to Nursultan Nazarbayev, the achievement of greater independence by the republic is connected with the structural changes currently being carried out in the economy, in which foreign capital is being actively involved. The emergence of the processing technologies will make it possible for Kazakhstan to supply finished products to the external market, rather than raw materials and semi-finished products. The recently established "Tengizchevroil" joint venture will help, in particular, to refine gasoline and paraffin from oil, and a joint Kazakhstan- Israel organization will ensure the production of rolled aluminum. An accord has been reached on this with the entrepreneurs of other countries.

Much has been done in the republic in translating the strategy of economic development of Kazakhstan, which has been elaborated by the president, into actual practice. In a press interview, Nursultan Nazarbayev stated that he and his assistants also intend to elaborate "an ideology of this state in conditions of the non- socialist track of development, democracy, and market economy." The president thinks that we should build "an open economy for our children, who will be free and live as they like. Democracy should find its place in Kazakhstan, so that respect for rights and the move toward the civilized state will become irreversible. Kazakhstan should not be cut out from the path being followed by the rest of the world."

Trade Unions Voice Concern at Declining Living Standards

LD1304175693 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A statement by the Council of the Trade Union Federation of Kazakhstan has voiced extreme concern and alarm over the sharp decline in the living standards of the people of the republic, brought about by a rise in inflationary processes and a slump in production and public construction. The statement also cites the estimates of specialists, according to which the minimum consumer basket currently amounts to 14,000 rubles [R], compared with a minimum wage of R2,500.

The presidium of the Council of the Trade Union Federation is insisting on setting—in accordance with the laws and with a decision of the Constitutional Court—new and higher levels for minimum consumer budgets, the consumer basket, wages, pensions, grants, and other social payments, during the current session of parliament. At the same time trade union officials believe that the minimum wage should be set at no lower than R5,000.

It is also proposed to index the population's deposits as they stood on 1 January 1992, to lower taxes for producers of food, medical supplies and consumer goods, to publish in draft form a mechanism for allocating to citizens their share of privatized state property, to implement effective measures of assistance to the unemployed, and to preserve the current system of financing from the social insurance budget the resort system, sanatoria, dispensaries, and children's health camps, and to leave them under the jurisdiction of the trade unions.

Trade union leaders are insisting on talks with the government on the most pressing problems, on finding common ground, and on concluding a general agreement with the trade unions. At the same time they appealed to the Supreme Kenges to support their statement and to expedite the elaboration of legislative and normative acts of vital importance to the population, and to do this with the involvement of the trade unions and other public associations.

Government To Send Battalion to Tajik-Afghan Border

OW1304145893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its closed session held on Tuesday [13 April] in Alma-Ata, the Kazakh parliament made a decision to send a battalion assigned to the republic's armed forces to guard the Tajik-Afghan border. 190 out of 366 parliamentarians voted for this proposal and 83 against.

Several People's Deputies reported to Interfax that there will be two companies of the interior forces, two companies of the frontier forces, and one motor rifle company in the composition of this battalion. All the 500 conscripts have been gathered on a voluntarily and contractual basis. Sergey Tereshchenko, the republic's Prime Minister, told the deputies that the battalion is almost ready to leave for Tajikistan.

At the session the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev explained the necessity to introduce the battalion into Tajikistan by agreements reached with CIS states earlier.

A decision to jointly guard the Tajik-Afghan border, as CIS outer border, was adopted at the CIS heads of states' summit in Minsk this winter. Several Russian military detachments have already been sent to the region of the Tajik-Afghan border.

Parliament Decides Against Dual Citizenship

LD1404114293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek April 14 TASS—Kyrgyz citizens cannot have duel citizenship, the republican parliament debating a constitution decided this Wednesday.

"The constitution does not recognise citizenship of other states for people who are citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic," the document says. This wording of the fundamental law was approved by 208 votes.

Kyrgyzstan

Deputies Circumscribe Role of Presidency

LD1304152893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A session of Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Soviet has examined the question of the president's role within the system of power structures in the republic. The parliament and president have agreed that the head of the Kyrgyz state henceforth has nothing to do with any of the branches of power, be it the legislative, executive, or judicial power. Askar Akayev himself thinks that this arrangement of powers acts as a guarantee of the unity of state power and embodies the idea of integration of powers and not their division.

President Discusses New Constitution, Urges Adoption

OW1304172693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delay in adopting a new constitution may result in the escalation of the crisis and problems in transition to a democratic society and market relations," President Askar Akayev told deputies in his capacity as chairman of the Constitutional Commission. He believes that if the deputies do not come to an agreement in their constitutional debates, the adoption of the fundamental law should be put off until the fall session of parliament.

He said that over one million people had taken part in the 11 week-long discussion of the constitutional draft. Nearly 10,000 amendments had been suggested 95 per cent of which had been accepted.

National statehood had been the most controversial subject, the president said. Akayev explained that by the nation the Constitutional Commission implied the entire population irrespective of ethnic origins. "There is more to the national sovereignty and political freedoms than the sovereignty of the Kyrgyz people alone," he emphasized.

The president said that the constitutional draft did not define the social system or formulate an official ideology. He said that to abandon totalitarian socialism was historically justified. The constitution, in his words, consolidated the concepts of equality, solidarity, collectivism, social orientation, and provided for rights and liberties within the framework of a market economy.

Akayev placed special emphasis on the fact that the draft "contained effective premises for the creation a civic society and market economy with priority given to private ownership. Kyrgyzstan must be a country of proprietors and nothing short of private ownership could lead to a free economy or provide the impetus for political freedoms."

Another point of controversy was, in the president's view, the status of the Russian language. The constitutional commission, he said, had come to the conclusion that Kyrgyz alone must be the official language, but Article 5 of the draft stated that "in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan the preservation of equality, free development and functioning is guaranteed for the Russian and other languages that are used by the country's population. No infringements on the rights or freedoms on the pretext of ignorance of or non-fluency in the official language will be tolerated." The president said this article was essential if an exodus of the non- Kyrgyz population was to be prevented.

Regarding power-sharing Akayev made it clear that too much power in the hands of the president would result in authoritarian rule and reduce the contribution that political parties could make to the formation of the government. The head of state is said in the constitutional draft to be the guarantor of stability of the constitution and unity of state authorities and to act on behalf of the people.

Akayev recalled that the proposal on setting up a Constitutional Court had been rejected. He said the entire judicial system should serve as the protector of the constitutional order. "Making a constitutional court a thing apart from other elements of the judicial system is likely to culminate in the politicization of the constitutional court, which is inadmissible under the current circumstances," the president noted.

Armenia

Parliament Approves Joining CIS, Black Sea Assemblies

LD1304120193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1126 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 13—The Armenian Parliament approved its republic's participation in the Inter-Parliamenrary Assembly of the CIS and the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea countries for economic cooperation. Armenia signed agreements to join these organizations in March, 1992, in Alma-Ata, and in February of this year in Istanbul.

Members of parliament said that the republic can remain faithful to the principles of its declaration of independence, passed in August, 1990, while still taking part in these organizations.

The Presidium of Armenia's Supreme Soviet will hold consultations with various parties and parliamentary groups concerning the composition of the republic's delegation to both inter-parliamentary organizations.

Officials Support Referendum To Approve Constitution

OW1204163293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian president's press secretary, Aram Abramyan, told journalists in Yerevan that the Armenian leaders support the idea of holding a national referendum on the constitution.

Abramyan criticized once again the opposition-proposed alternative idea of convening a constitutional assembly for approving the new constitution. He believes that in the current situation, given the absence of a real multiparty system, the current deputies will just move over to the constitutional assembly. He also noted the parliament was inefficient and, in the estimation of many observers, unable to solve the most vitally important problems.

As an example, observers refer to the parliament's futile debates over the draft bill on martial law. This draft law was proposed by the faction supporting the president of the Armenian National Movement. After lengthy debates, the parliament returned the draft law for finalization afraid that too much power might fall into the Armenian president's hands. However, most of the deputies understand that the bill on martial law must be adopted given the current tension in relations with Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, the opposition continues to collect signatures under the appeal for holding a referendum with the sole question: "Do you agree that the supreme legislative and executive powers should be legally passed over to the national council, elected by multi-party vote, with an immediate suspension of the president's and parliament's powers?" The referendum will take place if its organizers manage to collect 200,000 signatures.

The opposition leaders, among them head of the National Self- Determination alliance Paruir Airikyan, do not doubt that this action will be a success. He asserts that the current leaders enjoy the support of slightly over 8of the population.

Official Comments on Papazyan's Visits to Syria, Moscow

NC1304170593 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by Lida Gazaryan from a news conference held by Armenian Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Aram Safaryan in Yerevan on 13 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gazaryan] The Foreign Ministry press secretary briefed reporters on the press secretariat's special bulletin, which summed up the results of the 3-8 April visit to Syria by an Armenian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan.

He noted that with the opening of the Armenian Embassy in Syria, Armenian-Syrian relations have risen to a new level and contacts between the two countries strengthened. [passage omitted] Speaking on the delegation's contacts in Syria, Safaryan said:

[Safaryan] The Armenian delegation held a series of meetings with Syrian leaders, in particular with Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'. The atmosphere was warm and friendly. The sides discussed the level of progress in Syrian-Armenian relations and assessed it as good. But the Syrian side expressed anxiety over the escalation of military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh and over the deepening strain in Armenian-Azerbaijani relations. In response, Papazyan provided a detailed explanation of the issue. He explained that the Armenian Republic has no direct involvement in this conflict, as the military operations are taking place between the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's self-defense forces and Azerbaijani units.

The Armenian foreign minister visited Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad on 6 April. The meeting was long and conducted in a warm atmosphere. Al-Asad confirmed his government's readiness to help blockaded Armenia and provide 7,000 tons of fuel oil free of charge through the channels most suitable for Armenia.

The Armenian delegation was also received by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The sides discussed bilateral trade and economic relations. There is enormous potential in this sphere. The economic and trade

relations will become more dynamic once the complex issue of the lifting the blockade against Armenia is solved.

The Armenian delegation's visit to Syria ended on 8 April. Due to the unilateral enforcement of flight restrictions by Turkey, the Armenian delegation returned to Armenia via Paris.

[Gazaryan] In referring to the latest developments, Safaryan noted that upon his return from Syria, Foreign Minister Papazyan met Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow on 11 April. The meeting lasted one hour. They discussed issues of interest to both sides. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Protests to Baku, Calls For Cease-Fire

NC1304184393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry has sent a protest note to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. The note says:

Following a barrage of artillery fire on 10 April, Azerbaijani units supported by tanks violated the Armenian border and advanced toward a number of villages in Kapanskiy Rayon. By noon they had invaded Shikahog and Srashen and engaged in plunder. Then they attempted to besiege Tsav by maintaining fierce shelling against Nerkin-Hant. The aggressors were forced beyond the rayon's border on the morning of 11 April. According to preliminary reports, eight freedom fighters and five citizens were killed on the Armenian side, and two are missing.

At the same time, other border villages in Kapanskiy Rayon also were shelled. Four residents in [placename indistinct] were injured.

In addition, a large concentration of Azerbaijani military hardware is being observed in the vicinity of Armenia's Sisianskiy and Tavushskiy Rayons.

It must be noted again that Azerbaijan is pursuing a militaristic policy.

Despite all this, Armenia has not undertaken any [word indistinct] operation beyond its borders.

Armenia repeatedly has announced its readiness for talks on establishing an unconditional cease-fire, whereas Azerbaijan is doing all it can to drag out the talks aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Having assessed the aforementioned barbaric acts as a gross violation of our territorial integrity and sovereignty and of international law, the Armenian Foreign Ministry resolutely protests to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. Azerbaijan is continuing its efforts to drag Armenia into a meaningless war. Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for the consequences of its actions.

CSCE Observers Arrive in Yerevan

OW1304180893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of military observers of the Minsk group of the Council for Security and Co-operation in Europe on the settlement of the Karabakh dispute arrived to Yerevan on Tuesday [13 April]. At the press-center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Interfax was informed that the delegation included representatives from Sweden, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and the Ministry of Defense of Russia.

The same day the observers were received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Vahan Papazyan.

The Council representatives intend to visit Gorissky, Kapansky, Idjevansky andf Vardenissky districts of the republic that suffered the most substantial damage during the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Meanwhile, the Deputy head of the UN Chancery in Armenia, Fabian McKinnon, visited the republic's border with Azerbaijan on Tuesday. The spokesman to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Aram Safaryan told the journalists that Mr. McKinnon had had a chance to see for himself that there had been no accumulation of Armenian materiel on the border.

Azerbaijan

Guseynov Flies to Moscow for 'Political Consultations'

OW1204193293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Secretary of Azerbaijan Panakh Guseynov left Baku for Moscow on Monday [12 April]. Sources in the Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey's staff say that the State Secretary is going to attend political consultations in Moscow with Russian leaders in view of escalating Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. Panakh Guseynov will meet with the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Holds 'Confidential Meeting' With Kozyrev

OW1304163693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing an expanded session of the government, President Abulfaz Elchibey, the commander-in-chief of the Azerbaijani armed forces, called to subordinate the work of all ministries and departments to

the sole slogan: "To do everything to preserve territorial integrity and to save democracy in Azerbaijan." "In accordance with rigid conditions of martial law," he warned, "everyone, who fails to fulfill his duties, will resolutely be released from his post." "We must be ready for hard, tense, and long-term labor for the sake of our homeland," emphasized the President.

According to information received by Interfax in the presidential apparatus, on Monday [12 April] in Moscow the State Secretary Panakh Guseynov held political consultations with representatives of the Russian leadership "due to the escalation of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan." Azerbaijan's mission reconfirmed the fact that the state secretary had conducted a confidential meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. (The Russian Foreign Ministry has neither confirmed nor rejected this information). No details concerning this meeting have been reported, however reliable sources have informed that the Azerbaijani state secretary planned to touch upon the problem related to preserving the neutrality of Russian servicemen stationed in this region. (Several officials in Baku, in particular, the Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov assert that Russian soldiers and officers have participated in the preparation of the military operations of the Armenian forces to seize the Kelbadjar region of Azerbaijan. For their part, officials close to the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, representatives of the self- proclaimed Nagorno Karabakh republic and command of the 127 Russian division stationed in Armenia categorically reject these accusations - Interfax.) On the eve of his visit to Moscow, Guseynov was in Teheran. The Presidential Press Secretary Arif Aliyev said that this tour was caused exclusively by the need to receive humanitarian aid. In addition, Aliyev asked the Iranian authorities to render assistance in evacuation of refugees from the zone of hostilities. Aliyev has categorically denied messages stating that Baku has allegedly addressed Iran and Turkey for military support.

According to Interfax, in Moscow Guseynov was supposed to determine precise time for a meting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian Prime Ministers (an agreement on an upcoming meeting in Moscow was reached the previous week in Sochi).

IF [INTERFAX] Note: As is known, the Russian and Kazakh Presidents have agreed to continue their active peacemaking efforts "aimed at cessation of hostilities and restoration of calm and order in the region." Earlier President Nursultan Nazarbayev repeatedly undertook certain moves to organize a meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian officials. In particular, half a year ago such a meeting (with the participation of Premiers) was held in Alma-Ata. However, the agreements reached at that meeting have not been fulfilled. According to the Armenian party, the futility at such meetings is explained by the fact that, as a rule, representatives of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic are not present at them.

The Armenian mission reported that on Monday Kozyrev also had a confidential meeting with the Armenian Foreign Minister Vazgen Papasyan.

Foreign Minister Lodges Protest With Yerevan

OW1204192493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri foreign ministry has lodged a protest with Armenia over "yet another act of aggression" and demanded the "immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied Azeri territories". The Azerbaijani foreign ministry sent the note of protest to Yerevan on Monday [12 April]. The message says that on Saturday night Armenian armed forces violated the state border of Azerbaijan and made intrusions into its territory in the Zangelan district to launch a heavy offensive. The note voiced serious concern over the fact that Armenia had ignored the UN Security Council's resolutions calling for an end to hostilities and the withdrawal of troops from Azerbaijan.

Baku Expects New Armenian Offensive on Sarsangak Dam Area

OW1304120293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri Defense Ministry reports that on Monday Armenian troops again violated the border with Azerbaijan and after strong artillery fire attacked the villages of Kollu Gyzhlag and Razdere, Zangelan region. The attack was rebuffed. The ministry claims that a group of top Armenian army officers arrived in the area of Sarsangak dam in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azeri experts expect a new Armenian offensive on that section. There is still the threat that Armenians will capture the regional capital Fizuli bordering on Karabakh. The town is subject to daily rocket and artillery fire. The Defense Ministry intercepted an order of the Armenian armed forces transmitted by radio demanding the withdrawal of Armenian vehicles and the bodies of killed Armenians from Kelbajar region, Azerbaijan. Azeri military experts believe this is being done to clear the traces of an Armenian invasion before the arrival of UN and CSCE inspectors.

Armenians Fail To Seize Murovdag Ridge

LD1304113893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1126 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku April 13 TASS—Armenian forces failed on Tuesday to seize the Murovdag ridge connecting the

south-western and north- western parts of Azerbaijan, according to the press service of the president of Azerbaijan.

The Azeri forces retained their positions which are situated 2,000 metres high in the mountains.

Military experts said that had the Armenian forces siezed the ridge they would have gained access to two other Azeri regions—Khanlar and Dashkesan, and could begin shelling of Gyanja, the second major Azeri city.

The press service also said that Armenian forces sustained losses when Azeri guerrillas atacked them in Kelbadzhar region.

Armenians Threaten to Capture Fizuli

LD1304163093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1442 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By AZERTAJ-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 13 April—Fizuli, the administrative center of Fizulinskiy Rayon in southwest Azerbaijan, is still under threat of capture, the Azerbaijan president's press service maintains. Its report circulated today by AZERTAJ says that "heavy missile and artillery shelling of the town by subunits of the Armenian Army took place this morning."

According to the republican Defense Ministry, the enemy is at the approaches to Fizuli. The rayon center itself has suffered considerable structural damage. According to the defense department, populated areas in Agdamskiy and Agderingskiy rayons were shelled from Armenian positions in upper Karabakh. Azerbaijan's state border was violated in Zangelanskiy Rayon, where Armenian subunits tried to seize a number of border villages.

Karabakh Leadership Refutes Capture of Fizuli Settlements

LD1304131293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 13 TASS—A statement of Karabakh military leadership, circulated here today, has refuted an Azeri allegation on Karabakh self-defence forces' capture of several populated localities in the Azeri Fizuli region.

Karabakh self-defence forces are staying on the border of the Azeri Gadrut region and "are ready to repulse any possible aggression on the part of Azerbaijan," says the statement.

* Gadzhizade Claims Russian Intervention in Fighting

93AE0452A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Apr 93 p 8

[Article by Jalal al-Mashitah: "Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister to AL- HAYAH: We have Evidence of Russian Intervention"]

[Text] Moscow—Whereas Azerbaijan has announced that its forces succeeded yesterday, Tuesday, in repelling a major Armenian offensive against the regional center of Fizuli amid fierce battles that have also included the Agdara axis, Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Hikmet Gadzhizade told AL-HAYAH that he has evidence of Russian forces' involvement in the combat, which has led in the past few days to the Armenians' occupation of vast strategic tracts of land with an area of more than 1,000 square km inside Azerbaijan. Gadzhizade has added that his country is engaged in concerted contacts with Ankara and Tehran regarding the Armenian offensive, warning against attempts to get his country to enter into negotiations with the Armenians from a "position of weakness."

After seizing the (Kalbadzhar) Province, west of the disputed Nagorno- Karabakh Province, the Armenians launched a large-scale offensive against Fizuli, in the southern part of the region. They have said that they are within 2 km from the city. The Azerbaijani Embassy in Moscow said yesterday that the attacking forces were forced to withdraw to a distance of 5 to 7 km from Fizuli. But in a communique it has issued, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has characterized the situation around the city as "very complex."

Yesterday, the Azerbaijani parliament held a closed meeting to discuss the deteriorating conditions on the battlefronts to which Parliament Speaker Isa Kamberov has headed for a visit.

Quoting Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, INTERFAX reported that the Armenians are amassing armored and infantry forces in Gadrut and Martuni in order to deal a major blow to the areas located between Karabakh and the Iranian border. The president has also said that Russian military have participated in drafting the plans for the offensive, but he added that this does not represent the official position of the State of Russia and that "forces that seek to define their identity" are behind it.

AL-HAYAH asked Hikmet Gadzhizade, Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister and head of the Azerbaijani mission in Moscow, to define these forces and their objectives. Gadzhizade asserted that they are the "conservative forces that wish to revive the Soviet Union," adding that these forces want to obstruct a solution to the conflict in order to assure the republics which have gained their independence that they are incapable of settling their disputes without Moscow. He noted that recorded radio conversations have proven that units of the Russian 7th Army have participated in the latest

military operations. But he added that he does not know the authority from which these units received their orders.

Gadzhizade disclosed an accord that had been drafted within the framework of the European Security and Cooperation Council. The accord called for forming observer teams to supervise a cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces, and the reduction of armaments possessed by both sides and then for negotiations on a final solution. Gadzhizade said that the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers had agreed to meet in Geneva to draft a timetable for the withdrawal of forces but that the offensive started on the day that an agreement was supposed to be signed in this regard.

Gadzhizade noted that the main objective of the Armenian operations is to seize lands beyond Nagorno-Karabakh with an area of 1,000 square km and to make them a bargaining card. But he stressed that his country will not negotiate with anybody from a position of weakness.

Armenian Position

During a meeting with the members of a U.S. Congressional Democratic Party delegation, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan accused both Baku and Ankara of trying to "settle the problem by force," saying that they have foiled all efforts for a reconciliation. He added that his country calls for a peaceful solution but "without prior conditions." Observers find it more likely that these statements will be fully rejected by Azerbaijan whose president has emphasized that the negotiations will not be resumed until the Armenians withdraw from Kalbadzhar.

In a related development, Armenia has denied officially that its forces have taken part in the latest operations. Aram Abramyan, the presidential press secretary, has said that "no soldier of the armed forces (of Armenia) is outside its border." But observers point out that thousands of Armenians have entered Karabakh as volunteers. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has also said that 100 T-72 tanks have taken part in the operations whereas the Russian forces had left only nine tanks in the area when they withdrew.

Fuad Gadzhiyev, an adviser to the Azerbaijani Embassy, has said that the Armenians who have been complaining of the scarcity of fuel because of the blockade have been able to secure large quantities of benzene they need for their machinery, adding: "I wonder about its source!"

Internationalization of Conflict

It is well known that Azerbaijan and Turkey had blocked the passage of any supplies to Armenia which has continued to have open borders with Iran and Georgia. Analysts point out that the conclusion of a Georgian-Azerbaijani treaty had aroused the resentment of both Yerevan and Moscow. Armenians accused Georgians of turning a blind eye to the explosions to which the pipelines carrying gas to Armenia through Georgian territory have been subjected, the latest of which occurred last Tuesday.

Observers agree that internationalization of the conflict has become imminent, if it is not an already existing reality. Gadzhizade has told AL-HAYAH that President Elchibey has held contacts with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and that Tehran has offered humanitarian aid and helicopters to transport Azerbaijani refugees. But he added that "nobody has helped us to date" and that his country does not wish to transform the region into an arena for confrontation between major powers. However, the "situation will change if a third force emerges next to the other side."

Gadzhizade pointed out that Iran alone has more Azeris than the entire population of Azerbaijan and that they want to take part in defending the republic.

Yesterday, the Azerbaijani Government appealed to Azeris living abroad to send "experts," physicians, food aid, and money to contribute to confronting the Armenian offensive. The appeal said that 60,000 refugees have joined a half a million other refugees who had been evicted from Armenia and from battle zones inside Azerbaijan, thus posing grave danger to the country.

And Kurds, of Course

AL-HAYAH has also received the text of an appeal issued by Kurds living in Azerbaijan in which they have denounced the "aggression." The appeal says that the Armenians are engaged in acts of "annihilation" against Kurds living in (Latchin) Province and that they have evicted nearly 20,000 Kurds who have taken refuge in Azerbaijan currently.

It is to be noted that since seizing Latchin Province which contains the corridor that links Armenia with Karabakh, the Armenians have supported the establishment of Kurdish "self-rule" in the province. But KOSMOMOLSAYA PRAVDA notes that Yerevan plans to exploit the "Kurdish card" and it expects the Armenians to evict Muslim Kurds from the province and settle Yazidi Kurds in their place and to use the these Kurds later against both Azerbaijan and Turkey.

(Revaz Broyev), leader of the Kurdish Unity Front and head of the Kurdish Cultural Center in Moscow, has told AL-HAYAH that any endeavor to embroil the Kurds in the conflict is a "provocation," adding that the Kurds cling to neutrality vis-a-vis the current conflict but they will oppose any Armenian "act" to compel the Yazidi Kurds to move to Latchin.

Turkey's Ozal Meets Elchibey, Discusses Karabakh

LD1304191393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1809 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By AZERTAJ correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku April 13 TASS—Turkey does not accept the Armenian policy of Azeri lands' capture and believes the deteriorated conflict may spread and affect the whole Caucasian region, Turkish President Turgut Ozal said here today after a two-hour tete-a-tete meeting with Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Elchibey told correspondents he "did his best to inform the Turkish president on his view of the latest Azeri developments". In his opinion, "the Armenian military victory has turned into its political defeat, which is proved by the negative reaction of the international community to capture of Kelbajar".

At the same time, he stressed "the Azeri leadership will work to achieve a peaceful solution to the Karabakh problem within the framework of the United Nations Organization and the CSCE".

After the presidents' meeting, expanded negotiations of the two states' delegations were held. The closed-door negotiations were carried out with participation of representatives from the Defense, Interior and Security Ministries and ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Warns Armenia Not To Test Turkey's Patience

TA1304203393 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by Yavuz Yorulmaz in Baku]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey hosted a dinner in honor of President Turgut Ozal tonight. In his dinner toast, Ozal said that Armenia will commit a grave mistake if it tests the limits of Turkey's patience. Ozal declared that it will be extremely dangerous for Armenia to insist on a military solution and to occupy Azerbaijan's territory through various faits accomplis. The basic condition for the solution of the Karabakh problem consists of respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, Ozal stated.

In his speech, Elchibey noted that through its attacks against Kelbadzhar, Armenia demonstrated to the whole world that it is a country in favor of occupation. Vowing that Azerbaijan will definitely oust Armenian forces from its territory, Elchibey called on world countries to oppose the occupation.

Warns of 'Endless War'

OW1404104193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkey cannot put up with the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territories, Turkish President Turgut Ozal stated during a briefing in Baku on Tuesday evening, following his talks with Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey.

To quote the Turkish president, "the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has gone far beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh borders, assuming the depressing character of aggression against Azerbaijan." He also said that Turkey regards the seizure of Azerbaijani territories as an attempt to create a "Great Armenia" and urged the world's leading powers to pay attention to this fact, the alternative being the possibility of an endless war.

Abulfaz Elchibey said during the briefing that Baku highly estimated the "objective" assessment of Armenia's recent actions against Azerbaijan made by the governments of Britain, the U.S. and Turkey, and expressed confidence that sooner or later the world community would realize that in fact Armenia was committing acts of aggression against Azerbaijan.

On Wednesday [14 April], the Turkish president is planning to meet with Azerbaijani deputies and refugees from the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, and speak at Baku University. Concurrently, the two states' official representatives will continue their consultations in Baku.

Stresses Support in Address to Supreme Soviet

TA1404112593 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by Mehmet Alkas in Baku]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal visited the martyrs' cemetery in Baku this morning and laid a wreath. He also received Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov and conferred with him for some time.

Addressing the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, Ozal said that the state and the people of Turkey, which share the destiny and joys of the Azeri people, support Azerbaijan under every condition. Pointing out that during his tour of the Turkic republics he called for support for Azerbaijan, Ozal added that similar initiatives are being taken in international organizations.

Ozal stressed that all contemporary countries are against territorial gains through the use of force, adding that the Armenian people and its administrators should see this reality. Pointing out that Armenia will be condemned to regional isolation if it does not seek a solution in Azerbaijan based on international laws and equity, Ozal said that, given the current conditions, Armenia will continue to be a source of instability in the Caucasus. He added: I know that Azerbaijan wants to live in peace with the Armenians. Turkey has the same approach toward Armenia. The world is well aware of the efforts Turkey has exerted and is still exerting to secure peace in the region. The limits of the Turkish people's patience, however, should not be tested; otherwise, both Armenia and those who support it will eventually be disappointed.

Ozal said that Turkey wants the Caucasus to be a region of stability and peace and wants bilateral relations to be

transformed into multifaceted cooperation. He continued: I would like to reiterate that Azerbaijan has preferential status regarding these efforts. This Supreme Soviet is well aware that Turkey will not make any move in its long-term policies that might harm Azerbaijan. We are also aware, however, that certain circles that are disturbed by the developing Turkish-Azerbaijani relations are presenting some of our policies and actions in a distorted manner. We are sorry about these distorted representations. The entire would should know that Turkey—its nation, state, and government—is the friend and brother of Azerbaijan. This will continue to be so to eternity.

Ozal said that Azerbaijan constitutes an example to other Turkic countries through its acceptance of Turkish as its official language and its transition to the Latin alphabet. Referring to the importance of Azerbaijan's timely, speedy, unhesitating, and determined measures toward becoming a national state and securing economic stability, Ozal expressed the belief that such measures facilitate and speed up success.

Ozal later received an honorary doctorate from the University of Baku. Speaking at the ceremony, which was also attended by Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, Ozal stressed: Losing a battle does not mean that the war is lost. Citing examples from the situation in Turkey prior to the War of Liberation and the subsequent conditions, Ozal added that struggles waged under such conditions are won through unity and solidarity. He said: If Armenia does not use common sense, it will be disappointed.

Elchibey stated that the national spirit and sentiments cannot be destroyed through oppression and that Azerbaijan is speedily advancing on the path to establishing its national state. He added that his government is working on the economic development model that has proved successful for Turkey. Noting that there is a significant accumulation of scientific knowledge in Azerbaijan, Elchibey added that if this potential is realized, his country will become the biggest scientific center of Eurasia.

Ozal will visit the [word indistinct] refugee camp this afternoon. Ozal's tour of the Turkic republics will end tomorrow.

Guseynov Meets Iranian President, Completes Visit

LD1204202893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1638 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran 12 April—Today, a two-day visit to Iran by Azerbaijan Secretary of State Panakh Guseynov has ended. Shortly before his departure by air from Tehran, he was received by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who stressed that "in the interests of the region and of the whole world, Azerbaijan and Armenia must resume the talks on a settlement of the conflict on the basis of the Tehran agreement. This document on the principles of the resolution of the Karabakh problem was signed in Tehran in May last year, but it has not been implemented owing to the fact that the town of Shusha was taken by Armenian forces.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani has recommended as a first step toward reconciliation that the Azerbaijan and Armenian troops should be withdrawn from the positions occupied by them. Right from the start of the conflict, the Iranian president stressed, the Islamic Republic, has, proceeding from considerations of humanism, not stinted in efforts to resolve the problem and prevent an escalation of the conflict. "Observing strict neutrality, we have always called on both states to seek for a political way out of the situation that has taken shape," he said. Today, taking into account the fact that the area of military operations is coming closer to the borders of Iran, the conflict is directly threatening the security of the Islamic Republic itself. Therefore, Hashemi- Rafsanjani warned, Tehran "will be forced to take a more decisive and hardline position in the event of the armed clashes continuing," although it also hopes to restrain from this if the fighting is stopped. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has confirmed the willingness of Iran to assist in settling the differences between the warring sides, including in cooperation with "any other state."

According to a report from the IRNA agency, P. Guseynov called Iran "one of the close friends of Azerbaijan" and thanked the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support for the Azerbaijani people when the latter acquired independence. He described the present situation in the republic as "critical." In connection with the "new round of aggression by Armenia," Baku is hoping for help from Tehran in stopping the military actions, P. Guseynov stated. He handed Hashemi-Rafsanjani a message from Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Before his departure from Tehran, the Azerbaijan secretary of state expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the talks. He stated that Azerbaijan is in favor of a peaceful settlement, but is prepared to defend its territorial integrity by military means.

Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi, who saw P. Guseynov off, has spoken out in favor of the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the territory of Azerbaijan. He noted that Tehran is attentively following the new development of events on its northern borders. "Iran is convinced that the universally recognized frontiers of Azerbaijan should be respected and an end be put to the occupation of its lands. Only then will the path be open for resuming the peace talks," Habibi stated.

Turkey, Iran in 'No Hurry' To Respond to Call for Aid

PM1304152493 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Azerbaijan Appeals to Turkey and Iran for Aid. Ankara and Tehran Are in No Hurry To Take Resolute Steps"]

[Text] Having come up against a massive offensive which threatens to bring southwestern Azerbaijan under Armenian control, Baku is making desperate attempts to win Turkey's and Iran's support, and not only in the moral-political sphere, moreover.

ITAR-TASS reports that Azerbaijan Vice President Huseyn Panakhov, who arrived in Tehran Sunday, has asked the Iranian leadership to help defend the strategically important city of Fizuli. Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been handed a message from President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Official Iranian statements condemn the "Armenian aggression." However, that hardly means that Tehran, which has hitherto kept a generally neutral position and last year made an attempt at mediating between the conflicting sides, will agree to give Baku anything more than cautious diplomatic support. The Iranians have no particular confidence in Elchibey, who does not hide his pro-Turkish orientation. It is not only a matter of Iranian-Turkish geopolitical rivalry, but the fact that, in the opinion of Iran's leaders, the very existence of the nationalist regime in Baku could cause instability in the provinces of northwest Iran inhabited by Azeris.

The leadership of the Islamic Republic is perfectly well aware that under the incumbent Azerbaijan Government Iranian influence in this former Soviet republic will never be overly great.

However, Tehran's composure is also attributable to the fact that Ankara is making no endeavor to drastically change the strategic balance in the region. Despite President Elchibey's call for help with weapons and army instructors. Turkey is currently doing its utmost to demonstrate its reluctance to take any steps that could be interpreted as direct armed intervention in the conflict. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said that his country must "act with the whole world."

One must not forget that there is no unity of position in Ankara over the war in the Transcaucasus. The Demirel cabinet's cautious policy is clashing with the tougher stance espoused by President Turgut Ozal, who recently called for an overt display of military might on the border with Armenia. On 13 April he is to visit Baku, where a bilateral treaty is expected to be signed that will apparently contain certain commitments from Ankara as regards Azerbaijan.

For the time being Turkish diplomatic sources in Moscow are denying the rumors that recommendations are being included in the text of the agreement for Turkey to give Azerbaijan military support. An embassy spokesman who wished to remain anonymous told IZVESTIYA that, to all appearances, his country will not meet Baku's request for military-technical assistance.

Although the Armenian forces' recent successes are gradually changing the geostrategic situation in the region, people in Ankara nevertheless think that direct intervention in the conflict will not leave neighboring states indifferent. This may in turn cause a wide-ranging crisis for which neither of the sides is effectively ready.

CSCE Observers Arrive, Visit Various Areas

NC1304165193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] A CSCE observers group headed by [name indistinct] has arrived in Azerbaijan. First, the group visited Kazakhskiy Rayon. The leading officials in the rayon informed the group that the Armenian occupationist army units frequently violate our state border and fire on our schools, residences, and vital facilities in total disregard of the norms of international law. The CSCE observers' attention was drawn to Armenia's repeated claims that it lives under a blockade and only has a three-day supply of provisions. If this is the case, the observers were asked, why does that republic maintain its aggression against Karabakh, broaden its attacks on our border, destroy our land, and threaten the peaceful people?

The CSCE observers also visited Kubatlinskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons. They were informed of the evidence confirming the aggression of the Armenians and their supporters against our territory. The observers visited the martyrs' cemetery in Agdam. They also visited the military hospital and asked about the patients' treatment. Dozens of houses and public facilities which were destroyed by Armenian shells were shown to the observers.

The CSCE group also visited Terter, which was their final destination. Serdar Khamidov, head of the Terterskiy Rayon Executive Authority, informed them about the situation in the rayon and the occupation of Kelbadzhar.

The group will leave for Yerevan in the morning.

President on Opposition's Demands for Coalition Government

OW1204162993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing a conference of Ministries' and departments' leaders on Sunday [11 April] in Baku, President Abulfaz Elchibey qualified demands of the opposition to form a coalition cabinet of ministers as

groundless. According to Elchibey, the present government is already a coalition one because functionaries of practically all existing parties, including the largest opposition party of National Independence (its leader - Elchibey's former adherent and one of the leaders of Popular Front of Azerbaijan Etibar Mamedov) are represented in it. The task of the cabinet, Elchibey emphasized, is "to prove by work that the President's present team can overcome all difficulties and draw Azerbaijan out of the current crisis."

IF Note: The opposition press is persistent in the idea to create a coalition government. Local observers draw attention to the fact that many representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Russia share this demand. Some of the experts believe that the recent meeting of the Azerbaijani diaspora organized near the republic's mission in Moscow was a kind of general rehearsal on the eve of similar meetings in Baku (the participants of the Moscow demonstration demanded resignation of the ruling cabinet). In addition, the participants of the Moscow meeting have evaluated the state of emergency imposed by the President in the republic "as a cover to strengthen dictatorship" and called "the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, bankrupt in all respects, to voluntarily free the captured ruling positions to sound political forces and leaders." Several orators said that "Azerbaijan's return to an orbit of political and economic interests, common with the former Soviet republics," and even renewal of the republic's membership within the CIS, is one of the ways to surmount the crisis.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Receives Clinton Letter on Relations

LD1304122093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Kent Brown, U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Georgia, handed a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton to the head of the Georgian State, Eduard Shevardnadze. Bill Clinton thanks Shevardnadze for constructive sharing of views about the processes under way in the Caucasus and Russia. I agree with you, the letter says, that we must work toward settling peace in your region together. I look forward to meeting you and talking about the issues raised in your letter and also about issues of mutual interest.

U.S. Ambassador Meets Gamsakhurdia Supporters

LD1304191493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Tension persists in the Georgian-Abkhaz confrontation zone. In Georgia itself the difficult internal political situation also continues. Western diplomats are carefully following the development of events in the republic. For example, yesterday the U.S. ambassador to Georgia met members of the roundtable bloc of political organizations, which supports [former Georgian President] Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The ambassador announced that the information gathered in the course of the meeting would be conveyed to the U.S. State Department.

Meanwhile, the NEGA news agency today reported activization in western Georgia of the supporters of the expelled president. It is also reported that a rally is planned in Tbilisi on 26 May to demand the return of Gamsakhurdia to power.

Russian 'Reactionary Circles' Alleged Backing Gamsakhurdia

LD1304165993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1303 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] It is reasonable to assume, after analyzing the situation in Georgia, that the actions of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, former president of the republic, and his supporters are being encouraged by reactionary circles in Russia. This is borne out by the increased activity of destructive forces whose actions are assuming an ever more radical character. The aims of these forces are to hold regular meetings and similar actions, to systematically carry out a policy of disobedience against the present government, and to secretly re-establish their "roundtable." In their populist speeches, the supporters of the ex-president are emphasizing the difficult socio-economic situation which has arisen in the country. They are thus attempting to attract the broad mass of the people onto their side.

Kitovani, Gamsakhurdia Supporters To Lift Road Blockades

OW1304114993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani and the leader of armed supporters of the former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia Loti Kobalia agreed on Monday [12 April] night to lift road blockades in Zugdidi region, West Georgia. The press center of the defence ministry says the militants withdrew their pickets from the Tbilisi-Sukhumi highway at about 22:00 [1800 GMT] on Monday. The railway is not functioning so far due to the tracks in one place having been dismantled. It is expected to be restored by Tuesday night.

The terms of the agreement are not reported. The main demand of the opposition was the release of Gamsakhurdia's aides Petre Gelbakhiania and Viktor Domukhovskiy detained on April 6 in Baku on charges of attempting to assassinate the Deputy Chairman of the Georgian National Security Council Jaba Ioseliani. Five

people died when bombs planted in a car outside Ioseliani's house in Tbilisi exploded on June 13, 1992. Ioseliani himself was not hurt.

Defense Ministry Reports Attacks on Sukhumi, Ochamchira

OW1304115893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry, six persons were wounded in the shelling of the Abkhaz capital Sukhumi by Abkhaz artillery on Monday [12 April] night. The Georgian side retaliated. The exchange of fire continued for about an hour.

The Abkhaz Defense Ministry reports that in Ochamchira region Georgian troops used artillery and Grad rockets on Monday night to shell Pokvesh, Merkula, Labra and Atara Armyanskaya communities. On Tuesday morning the fire resumed.

Sources in Tbilisi say the Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani introduced a curfew in Ochamchira between 22:00 and 6:00 and appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Malkhaz Kipiani the new military commandant there to "strengthen discipline and order in the rear."

Shevardnadze Returns From Kiev Visit

LD1304173293 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1303 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Today the government delegation of the republic of Georgia headed by parliament chairman Eduard Shevardnadze returned to Tbilisi from Kiev. During the official visit a number of agreements and a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two states were signed.

Lithuania

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Policy

WS1404111793 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 31 Mar 93 No. 60 p 9

[Interview with Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys by Gintaras Visockas in Vilnius; date not given: "'I Believe in the Effectiveness of the Good-Will Policy,' Says Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys made a pleasant exception to LIETUVOS AIDAS—we talked to him about Lithuania's relations with its neighbors and the priorities of its foreign policy in the room where the minister receives ambassadors only.

[Visockas] **After the change of power in Lithuania, the Foreign Ministry has been reorganized. This process ended on 11 March. On what principles was the reorganization based, and what changes were made?**

[Gylys] There were two reasons. The Foreign Ministry took over some of the functions of the former Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations and its employees, and wanted to reduce the number of its own workers as much as possible. There is too much talk in our society about functionaries as a class of evil people. Certainly, there are good and bad functionaries. I do not support the opinion which is sometimes expressed by very honorable people that bureaucrats are the source of all evil. There are bad and careless functionaries, and our task is to reduce their number.... Thus, we have cut Foreign Ministry employees down to about 220.

People were not laid off because of their political views. Even today there are some employees who are ill-disposed toward the LDLP [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party]. On the other hand, I never ask my subordinates about their political beliefs. The only person in the ministry who openly belongs to one political force is the minister himself. The rest are not party but state employees.

[Visockas] **Why has the delegation for the negotiations with Russia been changed? What does this move mean?**

[Gylys] The delegation for the negotiations with Russia is a special issue. It is attached to the Foreign Ministry, but actually it is also a state unit. Thus not a Foreign Ministry unit, but a state delegation has been changed.

[Visockas] **Is this not a thoughtless move at a time when the situation in Russia is so tense? Moreover, during these few years our negotiators acquired some invaluable experience that is much needed today. The LDLP used to proclaim: Competence and experience are most important, while political views are secondary....**

[Gylys] We value experience; that is why we cannot help but appreciate the work done by Mr. C. Stankevicius' delegation. However, I am disinclined to overestimate its work. They may have achieved more. We would like the former delegation to preserve its experience and pass its work on smoothly. In addition, some members of the former delegation are in the new one, and the president has suggested that the opposition delegate one more person. If the opposition proposes such a person, he will be accepted.

One should not think that the new delegation is made up of incompetent people. Psychological orientation is also very important here. There is a psychological rather than a conceptual difference between the two political trends in Lithuania—our attitude toward Russia. I suppose that neither side is ready to sacrifice Lithuania's freedom or some other treasured thing. I believe that our firm correctness can achieve more because we are right. It is easy for us to go to negotiations.

[Visockas]**Don't you miss Mr. V. Katkus and Mr. G. Serksnys? Would not the experience of these politicians be useful today?**

[Gylys] The issue of deputies was really urgent. I reflected for a long time on whether to let them stay. The more I pondered this, the more I felt that different political thinking would hamper our work sooner or later. Moreover, when I did not work at the Foreign Ministry, my opinion about their qualifications was more positive. I am quite sincere. I was disappointed with their work skills.

[Visockas] **Do you think that the situation in Russia is very dangerous?**

[Gylys] Certainly, it is complicated. We are carefully following the events there, because they are really important to Lithuania. If our great neighbor slides into civil war, the situation in Lithuania is unlikely to remain quiet, from the psychological viewpoint alone. I hope, however, that Russian politicians, even the radicals, will have enough common sense. Russian radical forces from both camps are very strong, and they are backed by millions. Both sides are aware of this, and they understand that there will be no winners in the event of a confrontation. There are no winners in a civil war. That is why my cautious forecast would be the following: The events may lead to new elections, and the latter are a manifestation of democracy. Common sense and the pursuit for stability should win.

[Visockas] **We have the impression that our Foreign Ministry is in no hurry to respond to some Russia's harsh statements or that these responses are too mild.**

[Gylys] Our reaction to all important statements, for example, to the 21 January law (this is the most unpleasant moment in our relations with Russia) is immediate. Thus, we do react, although Russia's reply to our note concerning the 21 January law was unsatisfactory.

[Visockas] **After Mr. A. Brazauskas had come to power, there was much talk about the swift improvement in our relations with Belarus. The implication is clear—V.**

Landsbergis had been an obstacle to this. However, the reasons for the vagueness in our relations with this neighbor are entirely different. One of them is this: It is difficult to establish true cooperation with Belarus, because its Supreme Council has too many old-fashioned deputies who are flirting with Moscow.

[Gylys] I would not like to judge too categorically. I do not possess enough information about what happened there, and I do not know all details and subtleties. V. Landsbergis would certainly answer this question more precisely. I am saying this with no sarcasm.

Of course, a number of Belarusian politicians assess A. Brazauskas favorably. We should not, however, forget one more thing—the attitude of former USSR republics, presently sovereign states, toward the Baltic governments is changing. Having achieved their sovereignty, these new states are aware of its great advantages. From this perspective, even Mr. V. Landsbergis would have had much easier talks. Thus, not only the ideology but also the USSR collapse is important because it has changed the thinking of many politicians.

[Visockas] **How are you getting on with Belarus?**

[Gylys] We were more optimistic in the beginning. We supposed that our ties would be much smoother. However, diplomatic relations between two states is many days' work. We expect to have at least a charge d'affaires in Minsk in the near future.

[Visockas] **Thus, things are moving ahead, but not as fast as you would like.**

[Gylys] Things always move faster in one's thoughts.

[Visockas] **Is the Foreign Ministry going to improve the Lithuanian-Polish interstate agreement— to define the Zeligovski occupation more categorically and to defend the rights of Lithuanians in Poland more vigorously?**

[Gylys] The Zeligovski action is one of the most disputable issues. Poland and Lithuania assess this fact differently. Democratic forces in Poland believe that this move was unlawful because it violated the agreement. The Polish public opinion, however, is very patriotic and is not inclined to acknowledge such facts. We Lithuanians have caused no harm to any neighbor. It is easy for us to talk to all of them.

What could be the effects of the legal interpretation of this historical fact for Lithuania? This condition is especially vital to us. It is important that we do not find ourselves in the zone of certain economic demands. Besides, we should look ahead. Poland is our neighbor, and a very important one.

[Visockas] **Do you think that we will manage to defend Lithuanians in Poland? Is not this situation a bit tragic?**

[Gylys] I am aware of some tragic moments—we have some fears for the future of Polish Lithuanians....

[Visockas] **A Ukrainian delegation was here last week....**

[Gylys] The Ukrainians would like to open their mission in Vilnius. We are going—I will not reveal any state secret—to upgrade our mission in Kiev.

[Visockas] **Does not that mean that our charge d'affaires in Kiev will be replaced?**

[Gylys] This issue is being discussed, but I cannot tell you anything definite now.

[Visockas] **How do you see the future of the Kaliningrad region? Will we protect our nationals and cultural monuments there?**

[Gylys] The protection of our nationals' interests is one of our key concerns. Having normal relations with this region is the best possibility for protecting Lithuanians there. I believe in the demilitarization of this region. Events should take their natural course. If some state is too active, the others will become concerned. Their concern will be well grounded. At present, this area attracts the interest of Poland, the Scandinavian countries.... However, I believe in the effectiveness of the goodwill policy.

[Visockas] **Don't you think that Poland is much too interested in Kaliningrad?**

[Gylys] I may say the same about Germany, which is investing its marks in the Kaliningrad region. But this is a peaceful course of events. Our participation in the revival of the Kaliningrad region could be similar. We are participating in it now, but more through the shadow economy. You do understand what I am talking about. This shadow economy may grow into something more attractive in the future. Our commercial influence on Kaliningrad is undeniable.

[Visockas] **Can a small state cooperate with large neighbors on the basis of the "not a small state" concept? Is the LDLP ready not to concede?**

[Gylys] We would like to be not a small state, but a partner. The reality, however, is different: There are both superpowers and small states. Such a division does exist in big politics.

Lithuania has long been performing the function of a superpower by undertaking the role of leader and assuming the whole responsibility. Lithuania was the initiator of a number of changes in Europe and the former USSR. However, it is extremely difficult to remain in this position. We are not being invited to world summits, and we should not ignore this reality.

Defense Minister Opposes Neutrality

WS1304120093 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 27 Mar 93 No. 58 p 5

[Interview with National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius by Valdas Sutkus; place and date not given: "Audrius Butkevicius: 'I Am Against the Concept of "Neutrality" '"]

[Text] Judging by the statements of General S. Nekrosius, military aide of the LDLP [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party] chairman, there are some people who would like to "guarantee" Lithuania's national security by actually dissolving the Army and magically shield themselves with "neutrality." Today, we are publishing the views of National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius on the issue of national security. Valdas Sutkus is interviewing the minister.

[Sutkus] **A number of different factors determine the security of every state. Can you briefly characterize the situation in Lithuania?**

[Butkevicius] Speaking of national security, we often focus too narrowly on this concept and only take into account the possibility of using force or violence. Meanwhile, the security of a state is weakened by such everyday phenomena as crime, conveyance of dangerous (radioactive, chemical) substances, and the like. Thus, when speaking of national security, we should consider the entire system of threats.

The perils that the Lithuanian National Defense Ministry must deal with can be divided into several groups. One of them is the growing destabilization in the former USSR, which is bound up with regional conflicts, religious discord, and so on. The reason is simple—the process that dismantled the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union is continuing and is splitting Russia into several parts. About 38 regions in Russia are seeking autonomy. At the same time, this increases the threat of conflict. The process of collapse also produces a counterbalance—centripetal forces, the so-called "hard line." This includes the military-industrial complex, the reviving Communist Party, and all those who stand to gain from preserving a monolithic empire. Both the splitting and the unifying forces are dangerous. The first ones are involving us in their conflicts due to our geopolitical situation, while the latter are trying to influence Lithuania's life according to their interests. This is reflected, for example, in Russia's desire to undertake the role of policeman on the entire territory of the former USSR.

[Sutkus] **You have mentioned our specific geopolitical situation. Could you analyze it in greater detail?**

[Butkevicius] Let us have a look at the map. Lithuania, like the Kaliningrad region, is a true center of Europe and a junction of roads from Northern, Central, and Eastern Europe. All spheres of influence also intersect here. All Asian forces (Mongols, Tartars, and Russians) came as far as Lithuania and stopped here. It is here that Europe's advance to the East ended. The dividing line between two influences—Byzantine Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism—runs through Lithuania. Thus, the actual border between Western and Eastern Europe is the Nemunas River.

Due to such a geopolitical situation, we are constantly influenced from all sides. In either case (whether Lithuania is ascribed to the Eastern or the Western bloc) we become the borderland of one empire or the other, where the tendency toward militarization constantly prevails, and the military aspect leaves an impression on the economic development. (The classic example is Kaunas in the czarist times, when the fortress prevented the town's expansion.) Under such conditions, only a genuinely independent state can take economic advantage of its geographical position. However, this requires full control over the territory by one's own forces.

[Sutkus] **What is the best way of doing this? Is not the Swiss option where every grown-up citizen is a soldier most acceptable to Lithuania?**

[Butkevicius] Let us try to answer some other questions, first of all. We have discussed the threats, and now let us reply as to whether we are capable of defending ourselves alone. Unfortunately, we can only offer heroic resistance, but we are actually unable to defend our land. That is why we should find a relationship with the East and the West that would make Lithuania less vulnerable. At the same time, we should understand that neutrality will not ensure this. The way out is to join the West European security zone and participate in its respective institutions, because this is the only genuine guarantee of security. Thus, we should organize our defense structures in such a way that they could swiftly and easily fuse with the European security maintenance mechanism, or become autonomous if that mechanism proved to be ineffective. It is these two principles that should be the basis of our security system. Currently, this system consists of management (management of resources—the ministry, and military management—the headquarters) and the defense system itself. One of the components of the defense system is a regular Army that could quickly join with collective West European security forces, if necessary.

Generally speaking, there are two tendencies apparent in developing Lithuania's defense forces. One is related to the problems of integration, while the other concerns the need to hold back a threat. As we cannot create an Army that would equal the armed forces of our neighbors, we have chosen the so-called intelligence and sabotage alternative, with appropriately formed and trained forces. These tendencies also apply to the development of the Air Force, the key goal of which is to ensure control of the country's airspace according to international obligations. The naval force engages in coastal defense, rescue operations in territorial waters, ecological control, and protection of fish stocks—all those tasks that are called coastal defense in Western Europe.

Territorial defense performs the task of withholding threats. All Lithuania is divided into eight territories (regions), and their boundaries coincide with the borders of the civil territorial units. Each area has a center—one of the eight largest cities. Special military services in each area are responsible for the preparation and functioning of territorial and defense facilities during a crisis. The areas have an organized reserve which consists of the Voluntary National Defense Service, units for defending important state property, and ground combat training centers that are necessary to prepare the population and immediately form ground forces if some threat or crisis were to emerge. Each territory must make its military commander accountable for all forces and resources in the given area. This is what the current restructuring of military structures is aiming for.

A normal state also requires a border defense service that would be another Army reserve during a crisis. That is why it is more reasonable to attach this service to the national defense system than to the Interior Ministry. Even in Germany, which has incomparably larger Army reserves, the Army has begun to guard the eastern border, because it is completely different from the border with Western Europe.

The last element of the national security system is the civil defense, which also functions as engineer units.

[Sutkus] **Lithuania's former leaders based its security mainly on cooperation with the West. At present, there is a certain perceptible shift toward the East, although it is not being advertised. How will this influence Lithuania's security?**

[Butkevicius] The absence of a definite policy has always affected relations with our neighbors. I count myself among those who see the prospect for strengthening Lithuania's security in its relations with Western countries, especially NATO structures. I am against the concept of "neutrality." Unfortunately, the priorities of Lithuania's national security have not yet been defined.

Defense Ministry Launches Conscription Campaign

OW1304182693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1644 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Defense Ministry has launched the drafting campaign.

At present nearly 7000 men undergo training in the ministry system. Of the 2700 young men who will be drafted this year 770 will serve in the Interior Ministry system, 600 in the border guards, and the others in field and other units.

Special attention is given this year to the health screening of the draftees. A defense spokesman said that nearly four percent of the country's servicemen had been discharged from the army for health reasons last year.

Police Seeking Uranium Stolen From Ignalina

PM1304101693 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 13 Apr 93 p 13

[Report by Matthias Lifkens in Vilnius: "Safety Fear in Lithuania as Uranium Disappears"]

[Text] Hundreds of pounds of nuclear materials have disappeared in Lithuania, which has become the major transit point for smuggling radioactive substances from Russia to the West.

More than 600 pounds of uranium and strontium recently disappeared from a nuclear power plant in Ignalina, north-east Lithuania, and police are looking for 22 pounds of uranium 238 stolen from the industrial town of Panevezys.

Both incidents raised concern over the safety of the nuclear power industry in the former Soviet Union, highlighted by an explosion last week at Tomsk 7, when plutonium was spread throgh a small area of forest, and by the revelation that at least 20 nuclear reactors were dumped at sea off the Russian Arctic and Pacifc shores.

The spectre of theft is haunting authorities at the nuclear power plant in Ignalina, who discovered the theft of the container of nuclear fuel during an annual inventory in January.

"The container which is listed in the invetory must be somewhere in the plant," said an official, who blamed the theft on probems of accounting. The director of the plant said it was virtually "impossible to steal the 21-feet long container".

For the past month Lithuanian investigators have also been unable to locate two rods of uranium which were allegedly thrown into a river near Panevezys. The uranium is said not be enriched and cannot be used in weapons production.

After being tipped off by the Russian prosecutor, Lithuanian police arrested Raimondas Urbonas, a metal dealer, who admitted smuggling 22 pounds of slightly radioactive uranium from Russia to Lithuania to be sold in Poland.

Prosecutors believe Urbonas lied, and that the uranium is either in the hands of the local "mafia" or has already been sold to the West.

Urbonas told investigators he had brought the uranium for several hundred thousand Deutschemarks in a cafe in Glazov, a city in the Urals, then transported it in his suitcase by train to Lithuania.

On hearing that the gang which stole the uranium from a plant in Russia had been arrested, he claimed to have thrown the remaining rods into a river.

The search for the radioactive metal has so far not yielded any resuts. According to investigators, it is

extremely difficult to loate the uranium, which could have sunk into the mud of the river bed.

"At least it is better kept in this river than in the hands of a country which tries to produce the atomic bomb," a local newspaper quoted a member of the search squad as saying.

The inexperienced police force admits its inability to hunt for radioactive material. The risk of being caught with uranium is very low," admitted one investigator. [quotation marks as published]

After protests from Germany, the Lithuanian borders were recently equipped with radioactive detectors, although, according to the chief of the Lithuanian border guards, the Soviet-made dosimetres are "useless to detect small amounts of uranium".

Agreement Reached With Russia on Oil Purchases

LD1304193193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Russia has agreed to sell 1.5 million tonnes of state oil to Lithuania this year. This quantity will be included in the Lithuanian-Russian agreement on economic cooperation this year. This was officially agreed last week by the delegations of the Lithuanian Ministry of Power Engineering and the Russian Ministry of Economy. Representatives of both sides are drafting this week an agreement which will be signed by the heads of governments shortly.

Russia had previously promised to sell 1.5 million tonnes of oil, but after the Mazeikiai oil refinery signed an agreement with the Lukoil concern early this year, Moscow crossed Lithuania off the list of purchasers. Russia aiso promised to return to Lithuania the debt of 3.8 billion rubles [R] for electricity and for its transit to Kaliningrad oblast. This debt has accumulated from last May.

Deputy Minister of Power Engineering Robertas Tamosiunas told a BALTFAX correspondent that the negotiations on this issue have been very difficult, but the leaders of the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering have promised to transfer this money directly within a month or two to the St. Petersburg gas concern Lentransgaz, which Lithuania owes about R31 billion.

The Kogalym oil producers have promised to repay a debt of almost R1 billion in cash or in oil products for the roads built by the Lithuanians in Siberia. The Lithuanian road building organizations working in Siberia are in a very difficult situation because of Russia's debts.

Foreign Credits To Cover Social Welfare Payments

OW1404124193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1145 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The increments in pensions, social benefits, the wages of those who work in government organizations and other payments will be covered by foreign credits granted to Lithuania. As Lithuania's Prime Minister, Adolfas Slezevicius, said in a televised statement on Tuesday [13 April], tensions mounting in society forced his government to make this step.

According to him, Lithuania's economy is going through its hardest times in the past few years; a majority of the population is in a difficult situation, since the prices are swiftly reaching the world level, while a mechanism for compensation has not been worked out.

Nevertheless Slezevicius confirmed that "there are no alternatives to free market", and that the process of privatization in the republic will continue.

The prime minister also dwelled in detail on the ways to promote the agrarian reform, which, he said, should be amended.

To overcome the deadlock in farming Lithuania also has to resort to foreign aid, the premier said. Positive results have been reached at the talks with the World Bank, which, according to the prime minister, agreed to use part of the credit—about 15 million U.S. dollars—to cover the purchases of diesel fuel for the spring works in the fields.

Being in favor of free option as regards the form of farming, his government, Slezevicius stressed, will uphold the right of land owners to use their land as they please, including its lease and sale.